# WORLD SOCCER®

THE NO.1 INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL MAGA

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WORLD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

## RONALDO

Another gong for the golden boy

## EXCLUSIVE

## BACK IN BUSINESS

Henry and France's new generation

PLUS

GEORGE WEAH
RUBEN BARAJA
ROBERTO MANCINI
MICK McCARTHY
BRAD FRIEDEL
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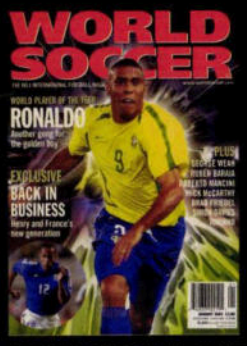


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January 2003

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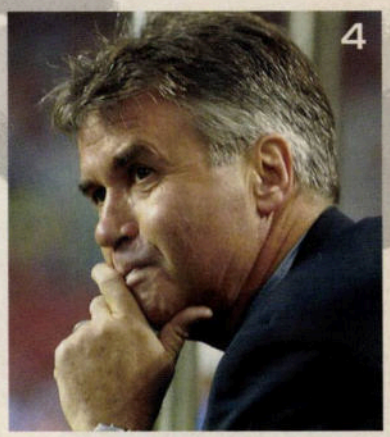


THERE will be those who question Ronaldo's right to be voted *World Soccer's* Player of the Year for a record third time. It could be argued, after a succession of debilitating injuries, that the Brazilian is not the great player he once was; that he was carried by a Brazil World Cup team which played to his strengths and disguised his weaknesses. Others might maintain that a player who used his World Cup fame to cash in on a lucrative transfer to Real Madrid is not deserving of such an award.

And yet, *World Soccer* readers are rarely wrong! How many other players scored two goals in the World Cup Final? That's the crux of the matter. In a World Cup year, awards go to those players who shine on the game's biggest stage, not those who sparkle briefly in November. (What did Thierry Henry, so outstanding for Arsenal in recent weeks, do at the World Cup, apart from get sent off?)

Eric Cantona was once criticised by Michel Platini, twice a winner of our award, for being a big player in small games and a small player in big games. Ronaldo, like last year's winner Michael Owen, is a man for the big occasion. He has proved himself to be a big-game player when it really matters.

Ronaldo's return from serious injury will be recorded in the history books as one of the game's most incredible headline-grabbing recoveries. But the most dramatic story of the World Cup – and hence of the year – was that of South Korea. Congratulations to Guus Hiddink, a clear winner of our Manager of the Year award.

**Gavin Hamilton, Editor** (gavin_hamilton@ipcmedia.com)

*** *SAVE MONEY ON WORLD SOCCER* **SEE OUR SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION OFFER ON PAGE 51**

# Back on top!

**Brazilian takes global accolade for record third time**

# RONALDO
## World Player of the Year

# HIDDINK
## World Manager of the Year

# BRAZIL
## World Team of the Year

RONALDO'S reputation as the world's most popular footballer has been confirmed by the results of the 2002 *World Soccer* awards. The Brazilian was the clear winner of this year's World Player of the Year poll, ahead of Germany's Michael Ballack and his Brazil and Real Madrid team-mate Roberto Carlos.

The award confirms the remarkable turnaround in Ronaldo's fortunes over the past 12 months. The forward topped the voting at the end of a year in which he scored twice in the World Cup Final and joined Real Madrid in a hugely controversial transfer. Yet he also spent more time on the sidelines than on the pitch.

In being voted 2002 World Player of the Year, Ronaldo is the first player to win our award three times, having previously triumphed in 1996 and 1997.

Last year's winner, Michael Owen, finished way back in ninth place and was the only Englishman to feature in the top 10.

Players who performed well at last summer's World Cup featured heavily, with strong showings for Roberto Carlos – the first man to win a World Cup and European Cup in the same year since 1974 – Ballack and Germany goalkeeper Oliver Kahn.

Zinedine Zidane's masterful performance for Real Madrid in the Champions League Final against Bayer Leverkusen did not go unrecognised as he finished fourth.

Brazil's World Cup victory in the Far East ensured that they were comfortable winners of the World Team of the Year award. The South Americans were the first winners of the award, back in 1982, and thus claim it for the second time, ahead of Real Madrid, Arsenal and South Korea.

But it was not to be a clean sweep for Brazil – Luiz Felipe Scolari was beaten to the coaches' award by Guus Hiddink, who was honoured for his extraordinary achievement in taking South Korea, who had not won a match in five previous World Cup finals, to the last four.

Surprisingly, Klaus Toppmoller of Bayer Leverkusen finished only fourth, behind Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger.

There was also recognition for the work of the USA's Bruce Arena, Luigi Del Neri at Chievo and Bruno Metsu with Senegal.

As ever, votes were cast from all corners of the world, including Cyprus, South Korea, Poland, Malaysia and Kenya.

● *Ronaldo Q&A overleaf.*

# HOW YOU VOTED

## WORLD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

| | | % of votes |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Ronaldo (Internazionale/Real Madrid & Brazil) | 26.17 |
| 2 | Michael Ballack (Leverkusen/Bayern & Germany) | 17.69 |
| 3 | Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid & Brazil) | 8.48 |
| 4 | Zinedine Zidane (Real Madrid & France) | 5.95 |
| 5 | Oliver Kahn (Bayern Munich & Germany) | 4.87 |
| 6 | Rivaldo (Barcelona, Milan & Brazil) | 3.61 |
| 7 | Raul (Real Madrid & Spain) | 3.42 |
| 8 | Thierry Henry (Arsenal & France) | 3.24 |
| 9 | Michael Owen (Liverpool & England) | 2.44 |
| 10 | Ronaldinho (Paris Saint-Germain & Brazil) | 2.26 |
| | Others | 21.87 |

## WORLD MANAGER OF THE YEAR

| | | % of votes |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Guus Hiddink (South Korea) | 28.33 |
| 2 | Luiz Felipe Scolari (Brazil) | 16.78 |
| 3 | Arsene Wenger (Arsenal) | 14.26 |
| 4 | Klaus Toppmoller (Bayer Leverkusen) | 8.84 |
| 5 | Rudi Voller (Germany) | 4.51 |
| 6 | Vicente Del Bosque (Real Madrid) | 3.61 |
| 7 | Bruce Arena (United States) | 3.20 |
| 8 | Senol Gunes (Turkey) | 2.34 |
| 9 | Bruno Metsu (Senegal) | 2.16 |
| 10 | Luigi Del Neri (Chievo) | 1.99 |
| | Others | 13.98 |

## WORLD TEAM OF THE YEAR

| | | % of votes |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Brazil | 24.36 |
| 2 | Real Madrid | 14.44 |
| 3 | Arsenal | 11.73 |
| 4 | South Korea | 10.46 |
| 5 | Turkey | 8.64 |
| 6 | Bayer Leverkusen | 7.76 |
| 7 | Senegal | 4.51 |
| 8 | Chievo | 3.06 |
| 9 | United States | 1.98 |
| 10 | Valencia | 1.81 |
| | Others | 11.25 |

| PREVIOUS WINNERS | | % of votes | | % of votes | | % of votes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1982 | Paolo Rossi (Juventus & Italy) | 23 | Enzo Bearzot (Italy) | 49 | Brazil | 30 |
| 1983 | Zico (Udinese & Brazil) | 28 | Sepp Piontek (Denmark) | 29 | Hamburg | 29 |
| 1984 | Michel Platini (Juventus & France) | 54 | Michel Hidalgo (France) | 30 | France | 45 |
| 1985 | Michel Platini (Juventus & France) | 21 | Terry Venables (Barcelona) | 30 | Everton | 42 |
| 1986 | Diego Maradona (Napoli & Argentina) | 36 | Guy Thys (Belgium) | 15 | Argentina | 15 |
| 1987 | Ruud Gullit (Milan & Holland) | 39 | Johan Cruyff (Ajax) | 25 | FC Porto | 38 |
| 1988 | Marco Van Basten (Milan & Holland) | 43 | Rinus Michels (Holland/Bayer Leverkusen) | 48 | Holland | 43 |
| 1989 | Ruud Gullit (Milan & Holland) | 24 | Arrigo Sacchi (Milan) | 42 | Milan | 51 |
| 1990 | Lothar Matthaus (Internazionale & West Germany) | 22 | Franz Beckenbauer (West Germany) | 53 | West Germany | 28 |
| 1991 | Jean-Pierre Papin (Marseille & France) | 25 | Michel Platini (France) | 42 | France | 20 |
| 1992 | Marco Van Basten (Milan & Holland) | 19 | Richard Moller Nielsen (Denmark) | 28 | Denmark | 37 |
| 1993 | Roberto Baggio (Juventus & Italy) | 14 | Alex Ferguson (Manchester United) | 21 | Parma | 24 |
| 1994 | Paolo Maldini (Milan & Italy) | 27 | Carlos Alberto Parreira (Brazil) | 17 | Milan | 33 |
| 1995 | Gianluca Vialli (Juventus & Italy) | 18 | Louis Van Gaal (Ajax) | 42 | Ajax | 50 |
| 1996 | Ronaldo (Barcelona & Brazil) | 17 | Berti Vogts (Germany) | 28 | Nigeria | 31 |
| 1997 | Ronaldo (Barcelona/Internazionale & Brazil) | 27 | Ottmar Hitzfeld (Borussia Dortmund) | 17 | Borussia Dortmund | 20 |
| 1998 | Zinedine Zidane (Juventus & France) | 23 | Arsene Wenger (Arsenal) | 28 | France | 35 |
| 1999 | Rivaldo (Barcelona & Brazil) | 42 | Alex Ferguson (Manchester United) | 60 | Manchester United | 61 |
| 2000 | Luis Figo (Barcelona/Real Madrid & Portugal) | 26 | Dino Zoff (Italy) | 18 | France | 33 |
| 2001 | Michael Owen (Liverpool & England) | 31 | Gerard Houllier (Liverpool) | 28 | Liverpool | 26 |

# RONALDO

## World Player of the Year

## 'I never complain about the pressures of fame'

RONALDO'S achievement in regaining his status as the world's top footballer is owed, remarkably, to just four magical weeks out of 52 – the month in South Korea and Japan when Brazil won the World Cup for a record-extending fifth time. The fuss over his transfer from Internazionale to Real Madrid did nothing to dim his popularity. Indeed, it kept his name and fame in front of the football public. For Ronaldo, it has been one of the happiest years of his career.

**WORLD SOCCER: At a distance of six months, what can you recall from winning the World Cup?**
RONALDO: I will never forget that wonderful feeling, and it was great to see how many people enjoyed our success. Winning in Yokohama was far more satisfying than in 1994. Then I was only 17, and though I was in the squad, I never played. It's completely different becoming a world champion as a reserve than as a first-choice player. But, of course, the team depend on the support of every member of the squad – particularly now there are no great teams any more.

**What has changed?**
Football is much more evenly balanced now. Perhaps it's because the top players play too many games. That's one reason France and Argentina went out in the first round. Their players were already worn out when they arrived. We play far too much for our clubs in different competitions and for the national team. It's getting worse every year. Players are people, not robots. I don't understand, for example, why we have to play 18 matches in the South American qualifying section of the World Cup.

**After the World Cup came all the fuss about your transfer to Real Madrid. It was compared to a soap opera, it ran on so long. Did it feel like that to you?**
It was a difficult time but I don't want to look back. It's over and I can concentrate on fulfilling a dream by playing for the greatest club in the world. I had talked about my future with Inter before the World Cup so this was not a big surprise to them, whatever people try to say. But it was during the World Cup when I finally decided I wanted to play for a club who could support me, not a club that I was expected to carry on my own shoulders.

**Any regrets on leaving Inter?**
The only one is that I could not say goodbye properly to my team-mates. At the end everything happened so quickly. Hopefully, once everything has settled down I will have the chance to go back to Milan and see them all. We had great times as well as a few bad times. I don't have any problem with the fans, either. They were always brilliant with me. I am sorry things ended as they did but they will think better of me in time, when they understand more about what happened.

**It was said that the Inter president, Massimo Moratti, was like a father to you. Was that a fair way to repay him?**
Nothing would have been possible without Moratti's help – even right at the end when everything was so complicated. He understood my concerns all along. I know it looks as if I betrayed Inter and Moratti, but it really was not like that.

## 'I know it looks as if I betrayed Inter and their president, Massimo Moratti, but it really was not like that'

**What about the comments that Brazil play to your style better than Madrid?**
I said that after the game against South Korea. But people took it out of context. I was just saying the obvious. I have been playing with Brazil for eight years; I have been playing properly with Real Madrid for about eight weeks. It is quite logical that it works better with country than club, but that will change soon enough. It's only a matter of time. Of course, when you play for the biggest club in the world you are under scrutiny all the time.

**Is it correct that Madrid will not pay you whenever the knee plays up?**
I don't want to discuss my contract publicly. But there is no clause, for instance, which gives me time off to go home for Carnival. That's another misunderstanding that worked against me in Italy. I attended Carnival in Rio only when I was recovering from injuries and so I could not play or train properly and was either resting back at home or convalescing. I certainly won't be asking Madrid if I can go home for Carnival.

**It was suggested you missed the game at Barcelona not because of illness but so you would not get the same reaction as Luis Figo. Was that true?**
Not at all. I was desperate to play at Camp Nou. But when I arrived back from Korea I had a temperature. I have learned not to take any risks. I have a lot of friends in Barcelona I was looking forward to meeting again. I enjoyed my season there and now intend enjoying my time with Madrid. I know, from my time with Barcelona, that I can enjoy playing in Spain more than in Italy. The football in Spain is more entertaining, you see more chances and more goals.

**Between 1998 and 2002 you had all those injuries. Did you ever think you wouldn't play again?**
It never occurred to me. I always knew I would play again – and I don't worry about a recurrence. The fans were incredible to me. They helped me in my recoveries. That's why I would never complain about the pressures of fame.

**Do you ever think back to that disastrous World Cup Final of 1998?**
Never. What happened in France is best forgotten. A lot of nonsense has been written and spoken about it. But to what point? It's all in the past. You can't change anything. So it's far better to be positive about the present and the future.

**Do you have any football ambitions left?**
I've never won the Champions League... But I've achieved the most important ambition – being able to play again.

*Keir Radnedge*

# HIDDINK
## World Manager of the Year

## Korea's national hero

AFTER a journeyman career with Holland's De Graafschap then Washington Diplomats and San Jose Earthquakes in the old NASL, Guus Hiddink has achieved far more as a coach than he ever did as a player.

Hiddink had an impressive CV before taking charge of South Korea in January 2001 – four Dutch League titles and the 1988 European Cup with PSV, the 1998 World Cup semi-finals with Holland. But nothing is likely to surpass his achievement in steering the Koreans to the 2002 World Cup semi-finals. They won a World Cup finals match for the first time, went beyond the opening round – another first – and, most significantly, became the first Asian team to reach the semi-finals.

Hiddink returned to PSV after the World Cup but continues to act as a technical advisor to the Korean FA. This allows him to return to Seoul on a regular basis.

Korea's Hiddink tribute industry is in full swing. As well as being granted honorary citizenship and awarded a university doctorate, he enjoys free first-class travel on Korean Air and numerous other commercial benefits.

# BRAZIL
## World Team of the Year

## The planet's favourite side

BRAZIL'S 2002 World Cup victory confirmed their position as the world's most successful and popular football nation. The Final defeat of Germany may have been a triumph for football's romantics over the realists, but it was achieved despite a traumatic qualifying campaign in which Brazil changed coach four times and were without the injured Ronaldo for all 18 games. But with a settled squad for the finals and a fit Ronaldo, Luiz Felipe Scolari's team grew in stature as the tournament progressed.

Victory in the Final in Yokohama helped to erase the painful memories of Paris four years earlier. By winning the first World Cup to be staged in Asia, Brazil became the first country to lift it on four different continents, having previously triumphed in Sweden (1958), Chile (1962), Mexico (1970) and USA (1994).

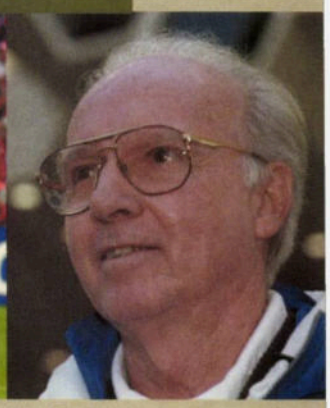
Brazil kept the Jules Rimet trophy after winning the World Cup for the third time. A sixth victory in 2006 in Germany would raise the intriguing possibility of a second World Cup trophy residing permanently in Rio.

## The month in pictures

● 03/11/02...Roma forward Antonio Cassano is fined after failing to turn up for training

● 04/11/02...Italy coach Giovanni Trapattoni receives a vote of confidence from the FA

● 05/11/02...Korean World Cup defender Hong Myung-bo joins MLS side Los Angeles Galaxy



● 05/11/02...Mario Zagallo is announced as caretaker coach of Brazil for the friendly against South Korea

# Q&A George Weah

## The former African and European Footballer of the Year talks to Michael Church

**WORLD SOCCER: After such a distinguished career in France, Italy and England, why did you choose to come to play in the UAE with Al Jazeira?**

GEORGE WEAH: It's a beautiful place and I thought, at least, I would be able to live for one or two years without any pressure. But it's not been like that at all because you still get a lot of media attention.

After leaving Marseille I could have signed a one-year deal with another European club and then looked for another club and so on. It was a mistake joining Marseille and I didn't want a repeat so I decided to come here and sign a two-year contract. It's better than being with a European club, who expect everything from you but don't give anything back. At Marseille I accepted everything, all the pressure, but received nothing.

Life here is easy, no stress, the games are good and I'm still fit. Some people say I'm still fit enough to play in Europe but I'm tired of European life.

**The talk in the UAE is that you have remained totally professional, unlike many of the other foreign players who have come here in the past to wind down their careers.**

Well, I don't want to cheat the game. I don't want to keep playing to the point where I can't do it any more. It is a beautiful game and has given me everything I have, all the respect and honour. If I can't keep going and my body tells me to stop then I will stop. I don't want people to think: 'George Weah is finished and that is why he has come here.' So I knew I had to show the people I'm not finished. I brought everything with me, my professionalism and my mentality, and I implement it. I'm happy that people are coming to watch me and I'm satisfied that coaches can come and say I've been doing well. For me, I'm not finished. I just decided to leave Europe.

**Liberia's run to the verge of the World Cup finals captivated the global football community. How heartbreaking was it to come so close to qualifying?**

We missed out because of a lack of interest from the [Liberian Football Association] officials. At that time we were so close but the government, too, should have played their part in motivating the players. But there was nothing. Even when we qualified for the African Nations Cup in Mali they did very little for us. They offered the players maybe £30,000, which between 50 players and officials is not a lot, only £600 apiece. And there was nothing for the World Cup. We lost our last home World Cup qualifier to Ghana and the performance was not good. But the players were discouraged because of the atmosphere surrounding the game. The officials came and we expected them to say that we would be offered £60,000 or £100,000 to motivate the team, but there was nothing. It broke the players' morale and affected the performance. What we expected from the officials never happened. We played, we lost and didn't qualify. There was a lot of controversy and a lot of people turned against the team.

People were saying that I tried to conspire against the Liberian government, with FIFA, with the United Nations. They said that if Liberia qualified for the World Cup then the government would be promoted and, of course, the Americans, FIFA and the UN don't want that. They said they saw me in America having a five-hour meeting with the UN and government people, and the next day the newspapers came out saying that their spies saw me in America. They said I was working against the government, but I was seeing my family because they live in New York!

There was little support for the team in Mali, either, so I looked at the whole thing and decided that was it and I resigned. I was not going back to Liberia. I can find my home anywhere. People are saying I am begging to go back to Liberia but it's not true. There is nothing there for me now. The only thing I miss are my good friends and people who love the game. But the national team is their national team now. Some players have attacked me, trying to convince people that I did nothing for the national team. But the Liberian people know the truth, that I took the team to the highest level they could reach. We qualified for Mali and almost qualified for the World Cup. I didn't only put in my mental ability but also contributed on the financial and moral sides.

**So there's no chance of you working with Liberia in the future?**

I have never said I would never help Liberia. If Liberia asked me to help them again I would go back and coach them or whatever, but not under this government. If Liberia want me then it has to be done with a different government. They don't like me and there is no way they could even beg me to come back. I'm living my life outside. I'm happy. I have nothing to do with the government. It's the way I feel because they are not good people.

**You have one year left on your contract with Al Jazeira. What will happen after that?**

I'm working with UNICEF and I want to continue doing that. My wife wants to set up a business and there's also the players' committee at FIFA. I'll be sticking around FIFA so I can learn the politics of the game. Maybe one day I will be somebody in the African federation, you never know. I'd like to coach one of the great African teams to prove to the world that I wasn't only able to do it for Liberia.

● 07/11/02...Barcelona's Carles Puyol signs a long-term contract extension

● 08/11/02...Argentina's Gabriel Batistuta confirms his international retirement

● 09/11/02...Manchester City win the last ever League derby at Maine Road, beating Manchester United 3-1

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# TEAM OF THE MONTH

## November 2002

Cudicini (Chelsea, 3 votes)
J Zanetti (Internazionale, 2)
Thuram (Juventus, 3)
Maldini (Milan, 8)
Pandiani (Mallorca, 5)
Vieira (Arsenal, 3)
Rui Costa (Milan, 3)
Nedved (Juventus, 4)
Van Nistelrooy (Man Utd, 6)
Crespo (Internazionale, 6)
Henry (Arsenal, 3)

## HOW THEY VOTED

**A BOLA (POR)**
Kahn (Bayern Munich)
Thuram (Juventus)
Metzelder (B Dortmund)
Maldini (Milan)
Roberto Carlos (R Madrid)
Nedved (Juventus)
Rui Costa (Milan)
Riquelme (Barcelona)
Pandiani (Mallorca)
Crespo (Internazionale)
Henry (Arsenal)

**FOOT MAGAZINE (BLG)**
Canizares (Valencia)
J Zanetti (Internazionale)
Verlaat (Werder Bremen)
Maldini (Milan)
Scholes (Manchester Utd)
Olembe (Marseille)
Scholl (Bayern Munich)
Nedved (Juventus)
Pauleta (Bordeaux)
Van Nistelrooy (Man Utd)
Makaay (Dep La Coruna)

**KICKER (GER)**
Casillas (Real Madrid)
Puyol (Barcelona)
Maldini (Milan)
Silvestre (Manchester Utd)
Vieira (Arsenal)
Seedorf (Milan)
H Yakin (Basle)
Davids (Juventus)
Pandiani (Mallorca)
Crespo (Internazionale)
Van Nistelrooy (Man Utd)

**VOETBAL INTERNATIONAL (HOL)**
Cudicini (Chelsea)
Thuram (Juventus)
Van Hoogdalem (Schalke)
Maldini (Milan)
Olembe (Marseille)
Vieira (Arsenal)
Nedved (Juventus)
Henry (Arsenal)
Pandiani (Mallorca)
Crespo (Internazionale)
Van Nistelrooy (Man Utd)

**DON BALON (SPA)**
Casillas (Real Madrid)
Thuram (Juventus)
Cannavaro (Internazionale)
Maldini (Milan)
Kaladze (Milan)
Radzinski (Everton)
Di Natale (Empoli)
Riquelme (Barcelona)
Crespo (Internazionale)
Pandiani (Mallorca)
Ailton (Werder Bremen)

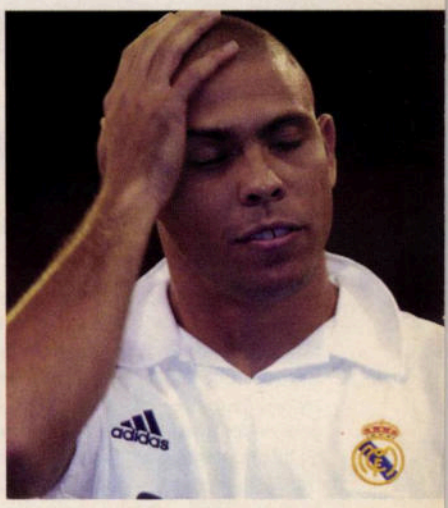
**GAZZETTA DELLO SPORT (ITA)**
Buffon (Juventus)
Sagnol (Bayern Munich)
Stam (Lazio)
Maldini (Milan)
Capdevila (Dep La Coruna)
Baraja (Valencia)
Vieira (Arsenal)
Unsworth (Everton)
Okan Yilmaz (Bursaspor)
Van Nistelrooy (Man Utd)
Crespo (Internazionale)

**SPORT EXPRESS (RUS)**
Cudicini (Chelsea)
Nadal (Mallorca)
Yobo (Everton)
Maldini (Milan)
Frings (Borussia Dortmund)
Rui Costa (Milan)
Nihat (Real Sociedad)
Nedved (Juventus)
Crespo (Internazionale)
Pandiani (Mallorca)
Van Nistelrooy (Man Utd)

**WORLD SOCCER (UK)**
Cudicini (Chelsea)
J Zanetti (Internazionale)
Verlaat (Werder Bremen)
Maldini (Milan)
Birindelli (Juventus)
Camoranesi (Juventus)
Rui Costa (Milan)
Claudio Lopez (Lazio)
Henry (Arsenal)
Del Piero (Juventus)
Van Nistelrooy (Man Utd)

# Notes & quotes

"Let's not dream. There is more talent in other continents."
UEFA chief Gerhard Aigner makes a controversial assessment of European football.



Big headache...Ronaldo

"Yesterday I played one of the worst games of my life. I made a lot of basic errors."
Ronaldo fails to give value for his £30million price-tag in Real Madrid's goalless draw at home to Real Sociedad.

"Now we are going to have to pay the price for our own incompetence."
Levir Culpi, coach of Sao Paulo side Palmeiras, who have gone from South American champions to relegation from the Brazilian top flight in the space of three years.

"Not just anyone can coach River Plate. It's the same as entering the White House. Everything has got to be perfect and you're not allowed one mistake."
Former River boss Hector Veira suggests George Bush or Bill Clinton should take over from the club's current incumbent, much-criticised Chilean Manuel Pellegrini.

## The month in pictures

● 09/11/02...Bayern's win over Dortmund takes the heat off coach Ottmar Hitzfeld

● 12/11/02...Valencia ease past Moscow Spartak, winning 3-0 on the final matchday of Champions League Group B

● 12/11/02...Hernan Crespo scores twice in Inter's 2-1 Champions League win at Ajax

● 13/11/02...Newcastle beat Feyenoord 3-2 in a dramatic final Champions League group game

# Q&A Brad Friedel

## The Blackburn and United States keeper talks to Kevin Palmer about American attitudes to the game

**WORLD SOCCER: Six months on, how do you reflect on the USA's World Cup success?**
BRAD FRIEDEL: It was an incredible experience. However long you are involved competitively, it is always over before you want it to be. The build-up goes on for a year and then the games come and go in a matter of days. I felt disappointed after France 98, not just by our performance, but because I didn't enjoy the competition as a whole. I made sure I took it all in this time.

**Did reaching the quarter-finals surprise you?**
Without a doubt because we are not a nation who can turn up to a World Cup and expect to go a long way. That may come in the future because soccer is on the up in America. For now, our targets have to be set a little lower. Getting through the first round group was our aim and after that it was all a big bonus.

**There were suggestions the nation didn't show much interest in your progress.**
I disagree. After our success in the World Cup, there was a real feeling of warmth towards us when we went home. There was a lot of talk about the team, and people were getting up in the middle of the night to watch our games.

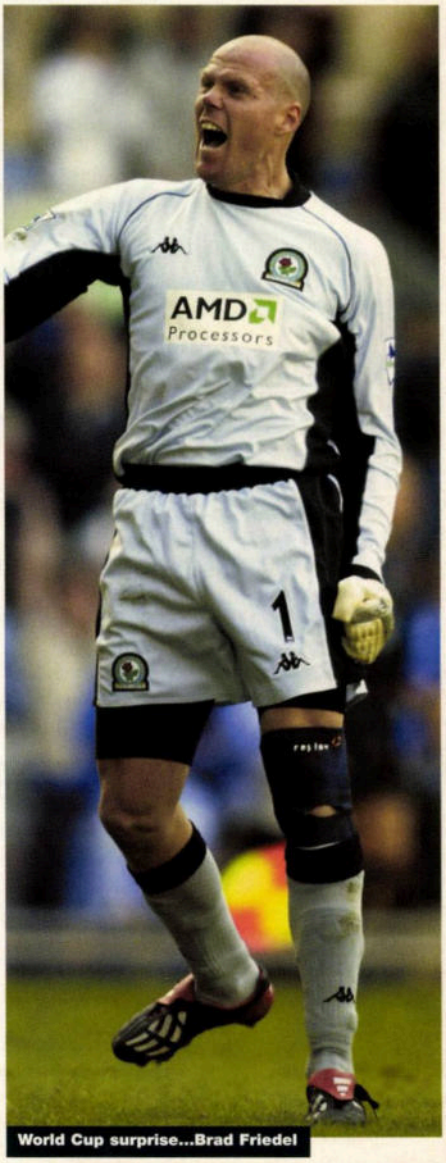
**Is MLS a good enough breeding ground for potential US World Cup players of the future?**
It is hard to know what will happen with MLS in the next few years, but if it can survive, we could be in for a real boom. In schools across the country kids love playing this sport more than any other now. The 'Soccer Mom' phenomenon, where so many parents encourage their kids to play, is very much a product of the modern era.

**Why is it taking so long for America to embrace soccer?**
The harsh reality is we are a nation who love to support winners, or at least a team or individual who have the capability to be a winner. The public jump on the bandwagon of something new if it looks like we can be the best at it. You can see the support the US women's side gets, massive crowds in attendance with front page newspaper and magazine coverage. That's all because they are winners and it is fashionable to back them. We need to force the men's game into that sort of spotlight.

**How can that be done?**
By playing as well as we did in the World Cup. That showed what was possible, and after France 98 we badly needed that. Losing to Iran four years ago meant a lot of people looked at the sport as some kind of joke. 'How could the USA lose anything to a country like Iran?' they asked. It hardly encouraged them to catch on to soccer.

**Americans struggle to follow a national team...**
That may be true. Team sports are massive back home, but there are not too many USA teams, maybe because we are such a big country. When other national soccer teams play around the world, the nation grinds to a halt and everyone gathers around the TV. It is taking a while to catch on in America because we are all loyal to our own states. But it can happen one day.

**What can the US World Cup team do to help the development of soccer in America?**
There is a lot we can put in because we now have a bit of a profile back home. I will be doing my bit during the summer in my home area of Cleveland and Columbus in Ohio. We will give the best young players in the area a chance to show what they can do, and it would be great if we identified a kid who could go on to do something big in the game. I will put myself on the pitch with the kids and we will give them professional coaching. If they are not good enough to consider a career in the pro ranks, we will tell them, and anyone who has potential will be given the guidance they need.




World Cup surprise...Brad Friedel

● 14/11/02...Blackburn fall to Celtic in the all-British UEFA Cup game

● 14/11/02...Paris Saint-Germain beat National Bucharest 3-0 on aggregate in the UEFA Cup

● 17/11/02...Juventus go top of Serie A after a 4-0 victory over Torino in the Turin derby

# Talent scout ARGENTINA

## Eric Weil selects 10 outstanding young players from the domestic League

Big heart...Battaglia

**SEBASTIAN BATTAGLIA**
(Club: Boca Juniors, Born: 08.11.80)
Strong midfielder with plenty of fight and stamina who stands out both in attack and defence.

**CARLOS ALBERTO TEVEZ**
(Boca Juniors, 05.02.84)
Has been an excellent replacement for Juan Roman Riquelme, now at Barcelona, as playmaker and third striker.

**GABRIEL MILITO**
(Independiente, 07.09.80)
Independiente, winners of the opening championship, had their Achilles heel in defence. But Milito was the back-line saviour on numerous occasions.

**MARTIN DEMICHELIS**
(River Plate, 20.12.80)
Has stood out in River's defence, while his liking for setting up attacks has also been to the fore.

**ANDRES D'ALESSANDRO**
(River Plate, 15.04.81)
Already outstanding last season, he has been a marked man and treated rather roughly by opponents who know all too well that he easily reacts to provocation. Yet he was again a stalwart and playmaker this term until suffering in the general decline of his team in the latter stages of the championship race.

**GUILLERMO PEREYRA**
(River Plate, 20.02.80)
Stood out in his team's midfield, showing experience beyond his age.

**FERNANDO CAVENAGHI**
(River Plate, 21.09.83)
Tournament top scorer last season, he has not been so prolific this term, though he suffered from a lack of continuity in striking partners.

**ALEJANDRO DOMINGUEZ**
(River Plate, 10.06.81)
Dangerous forward acquired at the start of the season. He did not reach his full potential at River mainly because he was not given enough chances in the first team.

**ROBERTO NANNI**
(Velez Sarsfield, 20.08.81)
Explosive young striker and his team's leading scorer, but a victim of his team's general decline in the opening championship.

**CESAR CARIGNANO**
(Colon Santa Fe, 28.09.82)
Second highest scorer in the opening campaign and a standout in his middle-of-the-table team. Sure to be snapped up by a bigger club sooner rather than later.

Replacing Riquelme...Carlos Tevez

# Notes & quotes

"All is corrupt. The system is bolted from the inside by Teixeira and his allies. We have to change everything, make decision-making more democratic."
Former Brazil captain Socrates hits out at what he sees as the autocratic ways of CBF president Ricardo Teixeira.

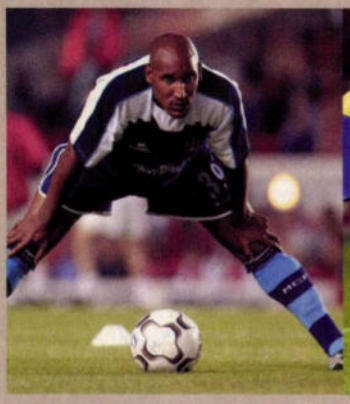
Putting it straight...Fatih Terim

"He didn't leave us. I threw him out."
Beleaguered Galatasaray coach Fatih Terim denies reports that Brazilian midfielder Felipe had walked out on the club.

"If the coach wants me, I'm ready. I'm fit and have had a good year in the USA."
Forty-year-old Colorado Rapids midfielder Carlos Valderrama makes himself available for Colombia.

"I will invoke the [five-day] rule again; perhaps I'll get Sepp Blatter to send me the rules."
Wales manager Mark Hughes prepares for another battle with Premiership clubs over the release of players.

## The month in pictures



● 18/11/02...Nicolas Anelka refuses a late call-up by France coach Jacques Santini

● 18/11/02...Ronaldo and Oliver Kahn are nominated with Zinedine Zidane for FIFA's World Player award

● 19/11/02...Paolo Maldini is named Italian sportsman of the year

● 20/11/02...A John Hartson header seals a 2-0 win in Azerbaijan and sends Wales five points clear in their Euro 2004 qualifying group

*Keir Radnedge*
**MEDIAWORLD**

## Making a pig's head of it

THE Madrid media came in for as much fire as Luis Figo in the wake of the contentious goalless duel in Barcelona which had to be suspended for 16 minutes midway through the second half.

Rather than criticise their hooligan fans, Barcelona's directors were more upset by photographs showing a stuffed pig's head lying on the turf as Figo took a corner. Gabriel Masfurroll accused the Madrid media of deliberately manipulating the picture.

"It's a montage," said Masfurroll, "just another of those lies that the Madrid newspapers bring out as part of their campaign against Barcelona. They are bitter because Madrid haven't won here for 20 years."

Masfurroll claimed that he recognised the picture as phoney because the grass surrounding the pig's head was different to the turf in Camp Nou.

The next day *Marca* (who else?) ran photographer Rafa Casal's original picture with the pig's head in the background as Figo took a 12th-minute corner.

25 de noviembre de 2002
PRIMERA BARCELONA • REAL MADRID

LA HISTORIA DE UNA FOTO

POR RAFA CASAL

# Masfurroll, aquí tienes el cerdo

Minuto doce del primer tiempo. Llega el primer córner a favor del Real Madrid. Allá va Figo. Era la fotografía esperada, la imagen del partido. Casi objetos, era el guión previsto. Hago la foto y la pongo rumbo a Madrid. Era uno de los temas del partido, el instante del que se había hablado toda la semana. Vuela la foto y en ella descubro al ya famoso cochinillo. Al final del partido hay fotos mucho más impactantes de Figo en los córners. La que sale en la portada de MARCA, con Figo rodeado de policías, demuestra la tensión que se vivió. A su lado se publica el primer plano del cochinillo.

Acaba el partido y el Camp Nou se empieza a quedar en silencio. La 'guerra' sigue en sus entrañas. Las gradas se quedan vacías, reina, por fin, el silencio. Hay menos luz, pero decido dar una vuelta para ver qué ha caído desde la grada. Empieno a ver botellas, latas, fruta... de todo. Llegó al córner del Gol Sur y doy con la famosa cabeza de cerdo. Allí sigue. Después de todo lo visto hay que reconocer que verla me hizo cierta gracia. Hago la foto. El cochinillo se convierte en noticia. Me dicen que Gabriel Masfurroll había de un montaje desde Madrid. Ahí está la prueba, pero por si no es suficiente nos ponemos a buscar más imágenes. Y allí está aquella foto olvidada del primer tiempo, la foto que podía haber caído en el olvido. Era el primer córner, se ve a Figo y detrás, como ustedes pueden ... cabeza del cochinillo. Quién quiera pruebas ... as tiene. Me ... de Radio MARCA, Radio ... onal de R... de Onda Cero, de la COPE. ... todo. Me dicen a última hora ... ticen que lo del montaje fue ... quitar dramatismo ... pero si alguien, sea ... diera la fotografía ya ... está aquí. En MARCA

a favor del Real Madrid y detrás se ve la cabeza del cochinillo.

'or genera' 'ea' re pas

### Secret of Lazio's success

"We are going so well simply because we have refused to let the business problems affecting the club get into the dressing-room. We know that would mean trouble. So this is our secret. We respect the club and, above all, we respect the fans who follow us both home and away. It doesn't cross our mind to think about overdue wages and bonuses, we just concentrate single-mindedly on the job in hand. That's taken quite a few opponents by surprise."

***– Lazio's Claudio Lopez to Stefano Orsini in* Il Messaggero**

### The worst Irish joke of all

"It is quite frightening to note that there are still people in this country [Irish Republic], people in politics and the media who can influence opinion and policy, who regard Ireland's involvement in a bid to stage Euro 2008 as serious and realistic...That the bid remains alive is a damning indictment of those elected to lead this country and of those who are supposed to question that leadership...This whole affair is becoming the worst Irish joke of all, and those in politics and the media who should be shouting stop are actively pursuing the nonsensical dream."

***– Donal Keenan in* Ireland on Sunday**

### United overload on Uranus

"Am I alone in suggesting we see too much of Manchester United on the goggle-box?...We're all aware of their robust following around the planet (the folks on Uranus also have an unfathomable soft spot for Nicky Butt and those Neville boys, apparently), but United seem more than a little over-exposed at times."

***– from South Africa's* Sports Illustrated**

### Last resort for Anelka the misfit

"Refusing [to join the France squad to play Yugoslavia] is not a decision taken off the top of my head or whim of the moment. I thought long and hard about it. I met Monsieur Santini at the Manchester derby last week.

"He had asked me to demonstrate my desire to play for France for him – something I have always tried to do. Then he gave me various unconvincing reasons as to why he was not going to pick me...In those circumstances I felt my late call-up went against

● 20/11/02...Alex Aguinaga wins his 100th cap for Ecuador

● 23/11/02...Barcelona face the closure of Camp Nou after fans hurl objects at Luis Figo in the *derbi* match against Real Madrid

● 23/11/02...Milan go top of Serie A after a 1-0 defeat of city rivals Inter

the grain. A sort of last resort. I need to feel appreciated to give my best, just like any other player.

"This is impossible if you are uncertain whether the coaching staff believe in you.

"I hope to play again for France one day but what matters to me right now is Manchester City."

*– Nicolas Anelka, using his website to get his point across*

Website whinge...Nicolas Anelka

## Struck down by the 'FIFA virus'

"Inter lost the San Siro derby to Milan because [coach] Hector Cuper feared the effects of the 'FIFA virus' on Hernan Crespo and Matias Almeyda. But these unwarranted travel demands did not affect only Inter.

"Of the 22 Argentinian and Brazilian players who started the matches in Japan and South Korea only five (Cavallero, Samuel, Dida, Lucio and Roberto Carlos) played the full 90 minutes of their clubs' next match.

"Don't blame Cuper; other coaches did the same. Ten of the 'Asians' were not even in their clubs' first-team squads (including Ronaldo, who came back to Madrid with Asian flu). Seven other players played only a few minutes each as second-half substitutes.

"Hopefully, Luis Fernandez has learned that lesson. The Paris Saint-Germain coach made Mauricio Pochettino play the full 90 minutes of a League match only 24 hours after he had come back from Japan and he also brought Ronaldinho on for the last 35 minutes.

"Hardly surprising, then, that PSG lost to Nantes."

*– from* **El Mundo Deportivo**

## Grappling with the grass roots

Prize for the month's journalistic own goal goes to BBC Radio's golf correspondent Tony Adamson. He was clearly miffed at having been dragged away from the cosseted comfort of the golf media tent to cover Heybridge Swifts against Bristol City in the FA Cup first round.

Listeners expecting a pre-match analysis of one of the round's most intriguing ties heard only a pretentious whinge about how Adamson didn't have a ticket or a seat or a power point and had got his shoes muddy.

The British media is always expressing its deep concern over grassroots sport. Confronting those grass roots (literally) is clearly something else entirely.

## WORLD SOCCER/CNN CLUB OF THE MONTH POLL

Milan's revival, topped off by their Champions League second phase victory over Real Madrid, lifted Carlo Ancelotti's men to the top of the World Soccer/CNN Club of the Month poll.

This is based on a weekly assessment by a worldwide panel of clubs' form both at home and abroad.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Milan |
| 2 | Arsenal |
| 3 | Internazionale |
| 4 | Juventus |
| 5 | Valencia |
| 6 | Ajax |
| 7= | Real Madrid |
| 7= | Manchester Utd |
| 9 | Independiente |
| 10 | Real Sociedad |

## Juan Alberto Schiaffino 1925-2002

NO FEWER than three members of the Uruguay team who scored that sensational World Cup Final victory over Brazil at Maracana in 1950 have died this year. Eusebio Tejera was the first, Julio Perez the second. But the third was by far the greatest: Juan Alberto Schiaffino.

Indeed, with apologies to the experts of the colour-TV era, 'Pepe' stands as one of the greatest and most significant footballers of all time.

Born on July 28, 1925, in Montevideo, he began with Penarol where elder brother Raul already played. He had dreamed of being a goalscoring centre-forward but the club considered him too thin and fragile. They switched him to inside-forward and, at 20, he was not only playing for

Uruguay but also top-scoring with 19 goals in Penarol's League-winning side.

In World Cup terms, Schiaffino peaked in 1950, when he scored Uruguay's equaliser at 1-1 in the Final. After starring again in 1954, when Uruguay lost to Hungary in the semi-finals, he was sold to Milan for a world record £72,000.

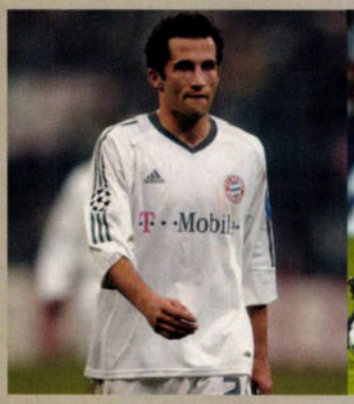
Schiaffino wound down his career with Roma after failing narrowly to lead Milan to victory over Real Madrid in the 1958 Champions Cup Final. They lost 3-2 despite Schiaffino's fine solo goal.

As well as winning 40 caps for Uruguay, Schiaffino also played four times for Italy.

And that world-record fee? The £72,000 translates into a present-day £400,000 – about one-ninetieth of the price of a Zinedine Zidane. Now that's what anyone would call value for money.

*Keir Radnedge*

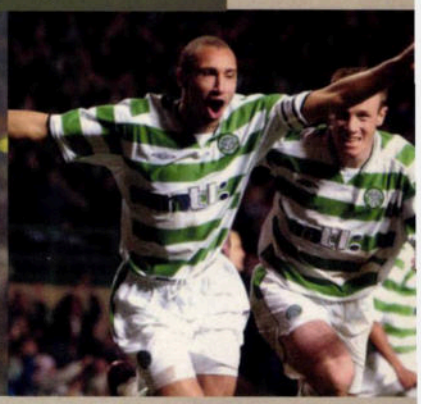
## The month in pictures



● 26/11/02...A knee injury rules out Bayern's Hasan Salihamidzic for the rest of the season

● 27/11/02...Barcelona beat Bayer Leverkusen 2-1 to notch up their ninth Champions League win in a row

● 27/11/02...A Thierry Henry hat-trick gives Arsenal victory over Roma in the Champions League



● 28/11/02...A Henrik Larsson goal secures Celtic victory over Celta Vigo in the UEFA Cup

**GLOBAL VIEW**

*Paul Gardner*

# Harm from heading needs proper assessment

DEATH by industrial disease. It sounds like something out of Charles Dickens' *Hard Times*, that tale of 150 years ago, about Coketown: "A town of machinery and tall chimneys out of which interminable serpents of smoke trailed for ever and ever and never got uncoiled."

Not so. This is 2002, and this is the coroner's verdict on the death of Jeff Astle. Not a labourer choked to death by smoke, but a footballer killed by brain damage from too much heading of the ball. Killed at the age of 59 – killed, in his widow's words, "by the game he lived for".

Heading as an industrial disease? No, it is not ridiculous. The possible dangers of heading have been hanging ominously over soccer for decades. They have been ignored or flippantly dismissed as something that may have happened in the past. But not now.

Four years ago former Celtic player Billy McPhail sought compensation from a benefits tribunal, claiming his dementia was caused by heading. His claim was dismissed. But now we have a solid legal decision, backed up by medical evidence. Dr Derek Robson, the neurologist in the Astle case, said there was evidence of brain injury consistent with "repeated minor trauma". He found that "there was considerable evidence of trauma to the brain similar to that of a boxer".

Why would that surprise anyone? It ought, surely, to be obvious that in a career that involves thousands, probably tens of thousands of bumps on the head, there is at least the *possibility* of some brain damage.

It's worth repeating – we're talking about brain damage here. Not something to be treated lightly. Yet it is difficult to escape the feeling that the matter *has* been given short shrift by the football authorities.

Only very recently has FIFA's medical committee shown any interest in the matter – responding, at least in part, to "concerns of the US media". I found that phrase – used by committee member Professor Jiri Dvorak at a press conference in Japan this year – rather irritating. As though the whole issue had been trumped up by those football-ignorant Yanks.

Could be, I suppose. But if the Yanks are overblowing it, FIFA certainly seems to be downplaying it. I have discussed heading with many top soccer people over recent years and have found that the first response is, invariably, there is no problem. If there were, we'd know about it, goes the argument. The world would be full of brain-damaged ex-footballers, and it isn't, so there.

It is not a totally convincing argument. Deaths from lung cancer had been slowly creeping upwards for decades before anyone paid attention and, in the 1950s, the link was made to smoking. And that link – in the face of bitter resistance from the tobacco industry – took further decades to establish.

But we shouldn't be looking for cast-iron proof. If we know enough to suspect heading can cause brain damage – and we do know that – then football itself, which means FIFA and all the other governing bodies, must act.

Action in this case means two things. Major trials and tests must be conducted on the long-term effects of repeated heading, and until those results are known, caution must be exercised in everything to do with heading.

As far as trials are concerned, no major one is being attempted. In England the FA, in co-operation with the Professional Footballers' Association, is conducting trials involving 30 players from youth academies. The FA says "this is something we take very seriously". OK, but it is impossible to view the trial they are backing as a serious contribution to knowledge. For a start, the numbers are far too small. (For comparison: the trial that finally got things moving in the 'smoking causes cancer' debate involved 187,766 people.)

The number 30 is ludicrously small for any meaningful results. And there are other problems. Any believable trial has to be conducted using subjects chosen at random. Yet here we have an elite group of young players, not typical at all of the millions who play the amateur game throughout the world.

**'I have discussed heading with top people in the game over recent years and the first response, invariably, is that there isn't a problem'**

These 30 will presumably have had expert training on how to head the ball. As the 'better coaching' theme is already used to bolster the no-problem argument, this mini-trial starts under a cloud of having selected its subjects to produce the desired result that heading is harmless.

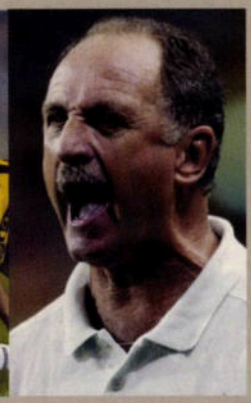
Ideally, the results of any trial of this sort should be compared with the results in a control group involving 30 similar – but non-soccer-playing – boys. Without a control group, the results of any trial can be open to a wide range of different interpretations.

The results – which I consider already vitiated by the poor design of the trial – will not be available for another nine years. In the meantime, and taking the Astle verdict into the reckoning, what do we do? Nothing?

That does not seem to me an option, particularly at youth level. One of the dangers here – those damn Yanks again! – is that lawyers will get into the act, instigating costly damage suits. Unless the sport can show it is doing everything reasonable to counter possible injuries, it will be in for a torrid time.

There are clearly precautionary measures that can be taken. I do not mean the wearing of helmets – a measure that would undoubtedly *increase* rather than diminish rough play. There is the possibility of insisting that young players, up to the age of, say, 10, play a version of the game in which heading is simply not allowed. That is not as dopey as it sounds. Teaching youngsters to

● 28/11/02...Steven Gerrard returns for Liverpool's UEFA Cup tie against Vitesse



● 29/11/02...Luiz Felipe Scolari is appointed coach of Portugal

keep the ball on the ground would not be a bad idea at all. In the long run, bringing players up in that fashion would surely lead to a game involving less heading. And that, if you ask me, would be most desirable. The best football, the most entertaining, the most skilful, the most intelligent, is played with the ball on the ground. But when the ball ping-pongs from head to head...would anyone call that football?

Those heading duels bring up another aspect of the dangers of heading – quite possibly exposing where the real danger lies. Because when a player goes to head the ball, he runs the risk of contact, not only with the ball, but also with an opponent's head or elbow.

Dr Bert Mandelbaum, a corresponding member of the FIFA Medical Assessment and Research Centre, has told me he believes head and elbow clashes are a far bigger problem than heading the ball. Unlike heading damage, such clashes produce immediate and often dramatically bloody signs, and are likely to cause an obvious problem: concussion. This is something that no one takes lightly – the threat of serious short and/or long-term damage is too obvious. So this is an area in which FIFA, along with representatives from other sports, has been busy establishing guidelines for the recognition, treatment and prevention of concussions.

So far so good. But if we assume that prevention is better than cure, it is disappointing there has been no suggestion from the FIFA medical department recommending a way be found to reduce the amount of heading in the sport.

There may be a way to do just that – removing the most dangerous of the heading duels, in which the elbows fly, and at the same time getting rid of a large percentage of the sport's ugliest moments.

Those moments start with goalkeepers – players who rarely, if ever, head the ball – as they merrily kick or punt it into the heavens and the hell with what happens when it comes down. We know what happens – and it's invariably ugly until the ball can be got back where it belongs, on the ground. So there's a start – find a way to stop goalkeepers behaving like howitzers. Maybe ban them kicking the ball over the halfway line, for a start.

Professor Dvorak is on record as saying that "with fit, smiling, healthy players you have nicer football". Indeed. And with less heading, with the ball on the ground more, you also have nicer football. And safer football that belongs in the 21st century, not in the 19th century world of Coketown and industrial diseases.

# Diary

## Naked celebration proves costly

A NAKED protest by an ecstatic fan in Swaziland has landed him in jail after he was found guilty of public indecency.

Themba Lukhele, a high-profile supporter of Manzini Wanderers, stripped off while celebrating success for his club after a League match against Mbabane Swallows, only to be arrested, along with several of his friends. He was charged and sentenced to 11 months in jail with an option of a £7 fine.

But unlike his mates, Lukhele has been unable to raise the money and is now in jail at Lobamba. His friends have promised to raise the cash to spring him free.

Bemused...Guy Roux

## Roux in a stew

CONFUSION all round in France, following a decision by the federation to declare Auxerre's 3-1 home League win over Sedan in September null and void because of a refereeing error.

The federation ordered the match to be replayed following an incident involving Sedan forward Pius N'Diefi. After the Cameroonian scored in the 75th minute to make the score 1-1, referee Stephane Moulin allowed Auxerre to restart the game with two *Sedanais* (N'Diefi and Henri Camara) still in the opposition half.

It didn't bother Auxerre, who were soon back in front through Zimbabwean striker Benjani and would later add a third goal.

But Sedan immediately lodged a protest, and the authorities agreed that a "technical mistake" had been made and ordered a replay.

Needless to say, loquacious Auxerre coach Guy Roux was not impressed. "It's more than a little strong that Auxerre are punished when both the referee and the Sedan players were at fault," he said. "Frankly, I don't understand. Someone has to explain it all to me."

Roux was no doubt heartened when France's Olympic Committee provisionally restored the points after Auxerre appealed.

## Lauterer agents cash in

NICE work if you can get it. Rogon, a leading German group of players' agents, would certainly be much poorer without free-falling Bundesliga club Kaiserslautern.

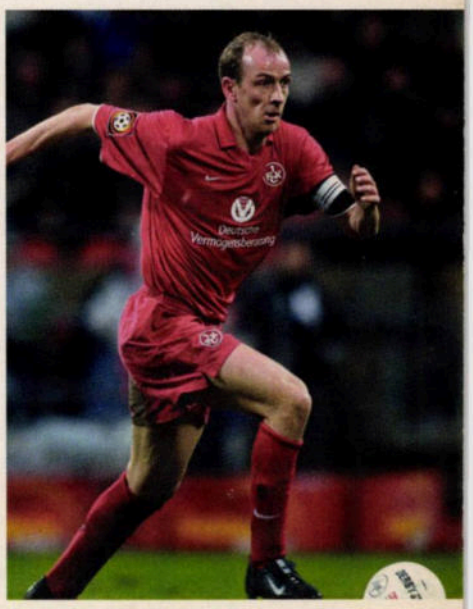
Not only does Rogon, owned by Roger Wittmann, brother-in-law of *Lauterer* midfielder Mario Basler, represent 12 members of Kaiserslautern's underachieving squad. It would also seem that the previous management team at the club could not stop cutting crazy deals with Wittmann and company.

When three Rogon players – Christian Timm, Selim Teber and Markus Anfang – were bought for a combined total of £666,000 last summer, Kaiserslautern thought it good sense to pay Wittmann £1.2 million in commission.

Another Rogon man, former Germany goalkeeper Wolfgang Fahrian, picked up £50,000 just for providing the club with the phone number of Nigerian defender Taribo West's agent.

## Highlanders in dock for trophy no-show

ZIMBABWEAN club Highlanders are to be prosecuted by the League for refusing to hand over the championship trophy for a ceremonial presentation, despite a promise that they could keep it after winning a third straight title last year. The League was supposed to create a new trophy for the 2002 season but "forgot", so when Highlanders won it for a fourth time in October, they were asked to give it back temporarily. But they refused, saying it was the League's incompetence that had led to the lack of a trophy. The League now intends charging Highlanders and the presentation has been postponed.



Family connections...Mario Basler

# Back to basics

The new France coach talks to Nick Bidwell about his side's ability to bounce back from World Cup failure

**WORLD SOCCER: After leading Olympique Lyon to the French League title last season, you decided to quit your post as coach and become the club's technical director. Why?**
JACQUES SANTINI: In February and March I spoke with Monsieur Aulas [Lyon president Jean-Michel Aulas] about the possibility of me taking up an important sports management position at the club, that my future didn't necessarily lie with the first-team squad. That was the direction I wanted to go in whether we won the title or not. As a club coach you cannot always have everything you want, whether it be new signings or the return of players with whom things didn't go very well. [Vikash Dhorasoo and Tony Vairelles, who returned to Lyon this summer after loan spells at Bordeaux and Bastia respectively, both clashed with Santini at OL.]

**You were one of the four candidates to succeed Roger Lemerre as France coach after his dismissal [along with ex-Japan boss Philippe Troussier, French Under-21 coach Raymond Domenech and Lemerre's assistant, Rene Girard]. How confident were you of being appointed?**
I don't know about being confident. I didn't seek the job at any price. At the interview, Monsieur Simonet [French federation president Claude Simonet] asked me questions, and I replied. It was not for me to say afterwards that the job was mine. Bearing in mind what I had proved for 20 or so years in French football and my success at Lyon, I thought I had as much chance as the others on the shortlist. I was neither confident nor fearful. I didn't say: "Monsieur Simonet, I'm ready to take the job now." I was relaxed about it all.

**Why do you think Simonet chose you? Apart from your winning record at Lyon, it is said the federation president was impressed by a dossier on the French team that you presented to him.**
You must ask Monsieur Simonet that. But it's true that ever since I became a coach, I have made a habit of taking lots of notes. It was the same when I went to Lyon. First as a scout, then in committee meetings and then as coach, I have kept dossiers. However, I don't think that made the difference.

**What were the deciding factors?**
Of course, my results with Lyon over the past couple of years, the French championship title and our Champions League qualification, and the League Cup win the previous year played their part. I also think I have a reputation as someone who can come in and get a project off the ground. Work doesn't scare me. Nor do difficulties.

**Could you elaborate?**
I would like to think that teams I have coached have always improved. That applies to when I started out as a coach at Lisieux in the Third Division or Toulouse and Lille in the top flight. They looked like being relegated when I arrived and in the end, they turned out to be good sides.

**What else worked in favour of your candidacy?**
I think I have shown I can work well at a big club like Lyon with all their great French and foreign players. With the France team you are in charge of such stars as Zidane and Vieira. You have to know how to handle them, and I think I have proved I can.

**What are your strengths as a coach?**
You know, it's the same whatever country you are in. You are only as good as your results. You can do whatever you want, but if you don't win you are in trouble. If you are in charge of a team at a lower level you can be appreciated for your work generally as well as results. But for big clubs and national teams, there is only results.

**What does being France coach mean to you?**
I had always wanted to coach a big club in France one day and that's what happened. I was fortunate to work at Lyon. There are only five or six top clubs in France. Even so, I never thought I would coach France. I'm very proud. It's deeply satisfying that 35 years of efforts and sacrifices have paid off.

**What is your verdict on the World Cup failure?**
I know from talking to Roger Lemerre that a long and demanding domestic club season played a part. There was one problem after another. Titi Henry had an injury, Zidane was hurt, Pires was already out. The players arrived at the tournament physically and mentally tired. The injuries to Zidane and Pires were very important. They were the motors of the team, the key men in the attacking system. I think a lot of factors were involved. But as I wasn't there, I can't say for sure what happened. But the fact remains that the French team were not only eliminated, they didn't win a match and didn't score a goal. I see it as one of those accidents that can happen.

**Is this why you have kept faith with a large majority of the World Cup squad?**
Yes. For most of the players in Korea, it was their first failure. With France, they had won the World Cup, the European Championship and the Confederations Cup; with their clubs they had won trophies at home and in Europe. The value of the team and the players didn't just fade away. I sincerely believe that these players can bounce back.

**In your first competitive match in charge, a Euro 2004 qualifier in Cyprus, France won unconvincingly 2-1. What was your verdict on the game?**
Generally speaking, we struggled to pick up the three points. However, the game was always going to be a little tricky for two reasons. Firstly, it was the team's first competitive game after the World Cup and the players hadn't completely got over the disappointment. Secondly, a number of the team were physically a little off the pace. Some players had only just started their season, while others such as those based in Italy had not started at all. That made things difficult. There was a lot of criticism of the defence, but neither the attack nor the midfield was particularly good either. The team as a whole was not at its best.

**The performances improved in the 5-0 home win over Slovenia and the 4-0 victory in Malta.**
Against Slovenia there was lots of quality and some brilliant play. The display in Malta was a disciplined and professional one.

**You used a Lemerre-like 4-2-3-1 formation in Cyprus and 4-4-2 against Slovenia and Malta. Do you think you have found the right formula?**
With a national team, you can never know if you have the right system because you are at the mercy of out-of-form players and injuries. You never know for sure which players will be available to you. One player misses a game; another misses the next. You have to adapt. Once the squad assembles, I know how I'm going to play. For the Cyprus game, I didn't want to change too much, too quickly. You cannot change from one day to the next.

**But you are a confirmed 4-4-2 man?**
It is part of my football philosophy. I like 4-4-2 and good organisation. But I have used other systems. At Lille, for example, I didn't have enough top-class players and so I used a 5-2-3 or 5-3-2. It's the quality of the players at your disposal that is all important. You try to take the right options and find a balance in your selection and tactics.

**After the World Cup, many accused the French players of having become complacent and arrogant. Do you believe your team is more humble, that a setback can have a positive effect?**
I agree with that completely. It's not that failure in

itself is good. But it is sure that a disappointment can be an incentive to return to fundamental values: humility, hard work and love of a fresh challenge. When I met the players after I was appointed, what came across very strongly was their motivation, their desire to put things to right, to qualify for the European Championship.

**France, arguably, has the most extensive and talented group of young players in Europe. Do you intend to introduce them progressively?**
You cannot work like that in international football. You haven't 50 matches. It's the best players at one given moment who are picked. I have kept the same backbone to the French team with a sprinkling of new faces such as Kapo, Govou, Gallas and Mexes.

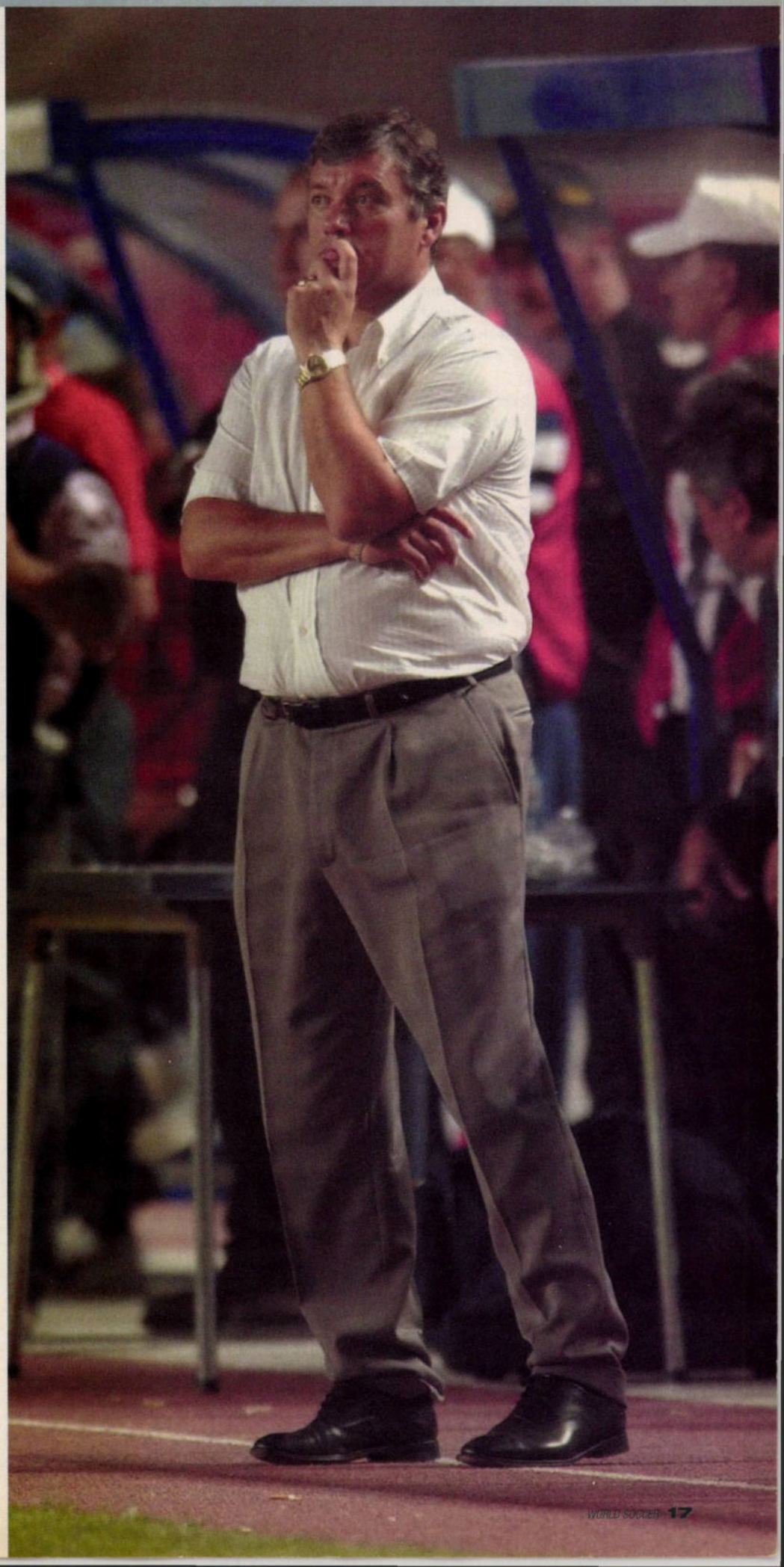
**National team regulars such as Bixente Lizarazu, David Trezeguet and Robert Pires have been injured of late. Can they expect an automatic recall when they are fully fit?**
Only the future will tell. The only thing I can hope for is that everyone is 100 per cent fit and then I make my choice. Lizarazu, Pires, Trezeguet and Cisse too were not included in the squad for our [November] friendly with Yugoslavia because they still had not completely proved their fitness. I have confidence in the current squad, but also in the ability of those players to make a comeback.

**Do you think there is more competition for places in your France team?**
For me, such competition is something very real. The demands are high and no one can say that he is excluded or sure of playing. Competition is there in every match we play, during each training session, every day the group is together.

**What is your reaction to the absence of French clubs in the Champions League second phase?**
It's a big disappointment that Lyon, Auxerre and Lens were eliminated. As the former coach of Lyon, it was particularly sad to see them go out. Maybe they thought they had done the hardest part in winning at Inter, but it wasn't the case. At the top level, every match is hard.

**Can France defend their European title?**
We are going to try. That's my responsibility. But if we want to defend the title, we must first qualify. We have nine points from our first three games and that's very good. Confidence has returned and our play has been good. But we must remember Lyon and not assume we will win the rest.

● *See overleaf for Santini profile.*



# Hard work pays off

**JACQUES SANTINI,** France's 13th national coach since a single boss took over from a selection panel in 1964, has spent close to three and a half decades almost exclusively in the upper echelons of football in his country.

The 50-year-old from Delle in the eastern region of Franche Comte may not have been among the most high-profile players at all-conquering Saint-Etienne, but he nonetheless served *Les Verts* admirably from 1969 to 1981, first as a midfielder, later in central defence when he became captain. He won four League titles (1974, 1975, 1976 and 1981) and two domestic Cups (1975 and 1977), but it was in Europe that he and his team-mates really made their mark.

Saint-Etienne caught the imagination of the French nation by reaching the 1976 European Cup Final and were unlucky to lose 1-0 to Bayern Munich at Hampden Park. They had Bayern on the back foot for most of the game and Santini hit Sepp Maier's bar in the first half with a header.

Surprisingly, Santini never won a French senior cap, though he did appear at youth level and for the Under-23s. He completed his time as a player with two years at Montpellier before embarking on a coaching career with Third Division Lisieux. He subsequently took charge at Toulouse, Lille, Saint-Etienne and Sochaux before joining the French federation in 1995, assuming responsibility for the Rhone-Alpes (Lyon) region.

In 1997, he accepted an offer from Lyon president Jean-Michel Aulas to scout for the club, then became technical director, and took over from Bernard Lacombe as coach in the summer of 2000. Under Santini, Lyon won the League Cup in 2001 and their first French League title last season.

Up for it...Bruno Cheyrou prepares for France duty

Ready to fly...Sidney Govou celebrates his goal in France's 5-0 rout of Slovenia in the Euro 2004 qualifiers

## The new man's new boys

**BRUNO CHEYROU**
**Age:** 24
**Club:** Liverpool
**International debut:** August 2002, v Tunisia

Goalscoring left-sided or central midfielder who owed his national team breakthrough to his fine work at Lille over the past couple of years. But if he is to stay in the squad, he will have to start more for new club Liverpool.

**WILLIAM GALLAS**
**Age:** 25
**Club:** Chelsea
**International debut:** October 2002, v Slovenia

A national team call-up was long overdue. The central defender proved at previous club Marseille that he had the quality to play at the highest level, only for then France coach Roger Lemerre to mistakenly stay true to Frank Leboeuf.

**SIDNEY GOVOU**
**Age:** 23
**Club:** Lyon
**International debut:** August 2002, v Tunisia

As the former Lyon boss, Santini knows all about this exciting young front-runner: his extreme pace, exuberance and goalscoring ability – but also that he can be a little too laid back for his own good.

**OLIVIER KAPO**
**Age:** 22
**Club:** Auxerre
**International debut:** September 2002, v Cyprus

Opened his international goalscoring account in the recent 3-0 friendly win over Yugoslavia and there should be many more to follow. Outstanding young attacking midfielder or attacker with a surfeit of technical ability, awareness and physical presence plus a good attitude.

**PHILIPPE MEXES**
**Age:** 20
**Club:** Auxerre
**International debut:** October 2002, v Malta

Until now the prodigiously talented centre-back has had little trouble living up to the tag of the 'new Laurent Blanc', and a large proportion of G-14 clubs are on his trail. However, he may have to wait a while to establish himself for France. Santini prefers the ready-made Chelsea central defensive pairing of Desailly and Gallas.

**DANIEL MOREIRA**
**Age:** 25
**Club:** Lens
**International debut:** November 2002, v Yugoslavia

Has improved by leaps and bounds since being switched last year from a midfield to a striking role. A front-runner of finesse, intelligent movement off the ball and usually a steady finisher. But he can be intimidated by bully-boy defenders.

**BENOIT PEDRETTI**
**Age:** 22
**Club:** Sochaux
**International debut:** November 2002, v Yugoslavia

A second-half substitute against Yugoslavia, the Under-23 star was only called up to the senior squad because of a lengthy list of absentees. But the midfield all-rounder should not stay on the B list for long. Quick, technically assured and reads the game well.

SMELLS LIKE
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Up and running...Juninho can't wait to pull on a Middlesbrough shirt again

# The forgotten star

Brazil's World Cup-winning midfielder is desperate to get back to action. Keir Radnedge reports

JUNINHO is missing the fun, and that knowledge is adding to his impatience to get back to action with Middlesbrough. Brazil's World Cup-winning midfielder has always believed in the potential at the Riverside ever since Bryan Robson took the original gamble on his nimble skills back in 1995.

Now that Steve McClaren is promising to make all those Teesside dreams come true, Juninho is going through the arduous rehabilitation demanded by the consequences of a clumsy collision in pre-season.

Juninho, now 29, had been back with Middlesbrough for barely 90 minutes of playing time after a turbulent spell with Atletico Madrid before the doctors were staring gloomily at scans of damaged ligaments in his left knee. They did not even dare predict when he would return to competitive action in England.

Juninho, of all Brazil's heroes from South Korea and Japan last June, is the World Cup winner the game forgot. At least all the rest, even Ronaldo, are up and about and playing football even if, in the case of Brazil goalkeeper Marcos, that has meant relegation with Palmeiras.

Poor Juninho has been seen only once in action back in England in all that time; he even scored in the friendly against Alaves that preceded the fateful trip to Italy and a mini-tournament in Mantova during which Juninho was injured against Modena. At least he had the memory of the excitement of the World Cup victory to keep him going. Juninho describes it as "the greatest achievement I could imagine as a player".

He adds: "I had been dreaming of that ever since I was nine – the 1982 World Cup is the furthest I can remember, when Brazil lost to Italy in the second round. We deserved to win in Japan. We were the best team there by a long way, though it took us a few games to settle down.

**●'I need to feel my team-mates and coaches believe in me. I never got that at Atletico, but at Middlesbrough the club and fans have been great'**

"It's always difficult because our players have to come together from all over the world and we don't get much chance to prepare for matches or tournaments. Fortunately, we have players with wonderful natural talent, and that probably means we can adjust quicker to each other's game than other national teams. I think everyone respects Brazil for that."

Juninho was not surprised that Luiz Felipe Scolari quit as coach immediately after the 2-0 victory over Germany in the Final in Yokohama. "Scolari always said that he saw his mission as taking Brazil to the World Cup finals – we were struggling in the qualifying competition when he took over, remember – and he did precisely that," says Juninho.

"He couldn't do any better than win the World Cup. So it was logical that he stepped down then. He had said he would do that and he was as good as his word. I understand he has now been appointed manager of Portugal. I knew he was attracted by the idea of working in Europe, so that doesn't surprise me either."

Scolari was not the only member of Brazil's victorious party to move on. Juninho himself switched from Atletico Madrid back to Middlesbrough and Ronaldo, far more controversially, quit Internazionale for Real Madrid. But Juninho will not hear a word against the World Cup's eight-goal top scorer. It's a matter of professional respect, as much as anything.

He says: "Ronaldo is just an incredible footballer. There is no other way to describe him and he deserves whatever he can achieve after all his injury problems. Now he's playing for the greatest club in the world at Real Madrid and I'm sure he's going to explode into form with them very soon. I've heard these stories that he's overweight, but that must be a joke. He scored two of Brazil's goals in the recent friendly against South Korea, so if he really is overweight then think what he's going to achieve when he's lost a few kilos."

Juninho has mixed memories of his own spells in Spain with Atletico. He enjoyed the climate and lifestyle but not so much the football. However, he says: "I often wonder what would have happened if circumstances had been different and I hadn't broken my leg against Celta. Of course, injuries never happen at a good time, but right then I think Atletico could have won the League or the Cup.

"Instead, I was ruled out for the best part of a season, things started to go wrong – and a year or two later Atletico were relegated.

"There was also a change of coach. I wonder what would have happened if Raddy Antic had stayed with the club – or, to put it another way, if Arrigo Sacchi hadn't come in. That was just when I was getting back to fitness and my best form and, at a time like that, a player needs a coach to help him regain his confidence.

"Antic was good for me but Sacchi never gave me the support or encouragement I needed. Maybe it was partly my fault for not adjusting

but I don't think it was mainly down to me. I've always tried hard wherever I've played. It just seems to have been my lot that, everywhere I've gone, someone has always raised questions about my game."

He did not need much persuading to return to Middlesbrough once the practicalities of the contract and transfer had been settled. Picking up the confidence theme, Juninho says: "The thing that convinced me to go back to English football was that I am one of those players who needs to feel his team-mates and coaches believe in him. I never had that sensation at Atletico, whereas in England absolutely everybody has been great, from the people at the club to the fans.

"I still think coming back to the Premiership was right for me – despite the injury and the fact that I have spent my convalescence back in Brazil rather than England.

"I asked the doctor [Nivaldo Baldo] who has been overseeing my rehabilitation if he could work miracles for me, and he said he would do his best. He's helped all the top Brazilian players at one time or another and he did a great job for me when I was injured in Spain.

"We work between 10 and 12 hours a day sometimes to help the injury and also to keep up the rest of my muscle strength so I will waste as little time as possible regaining match fitness when I go back to English football. But I still do not know quite when that will be.

"It is hard to set a date. The knee doesn't hurt but you never know how it will react until you test it in a game. Originally, everyone said it would be five or six months or even more. I hope it will be the minimum possible. It's been very, very depressing. The one consolation is that I see more of my family back in Brazil."

Juninho does his best to keep up with events at Middlesbrough. He says: "Whatever I find out I always want to know more. That's how impatient I am to get back to Middlesbrough – particularly now the team are going so well and I can't be there to help them.

"I always knew the potential at Middlesbrough was terrific. It's frustrating to see it start to happen while I am out injured.

"We were so close to winning something the first time I was there when we lost the Finals of both the FA Cup and the League Cup. The club and the team have come on so much in the years since then.

"It would be sensational if we could win something really big now. I think it's time – and I also intend to play my part."

# Miracles and masterplans

The coach of debt-laden Lazio talks to Paddy Agnew about achieving success against the odds

HIS PLAYERS' wages have not been paid for months, his club's parent company is in deep financial crisis, the club itself is officially up for sale, and yet Lazio coach Roberto Mancini keeps on trucking.

By early December, Mancini had every right to be considered the miracle man, having steered Lazio to the top of Serie A and taken the club on a 16-match unbeaten run of League and UEFA Cup games.

At the beginning of this season, not many would have predicted Lazio would head into the Christmas break at or even close to the top of the table.

Last season's relatively poor form (they finished sixth, 18 points behind champions Juventus) and the looming financial crisis that prompted the late August sales of arguably the club's two most talented players – defender Alessandro Nesta and Argentinian striker Hernan Crespo – all boded ill.

All the worst predictions seemed to be confirmed when Lazio opened up the season with a 3-2 home defeat by Chievo. Remarkably, however, by early December that had been their only defeat.

Even when Lazio's financial problems went public in early November, the team kept on playing well. The money crisis became official when Lazio's parent company, tinned foods conglomerate Cirio, was ruled in default on a £100 million bond.

Cirio's major shareholder is financier Sergio Cragnotti, who controls SS Lazio through his 51 per cent majority shareholding in the stockmarket-quoted club.

That Cragnotti shareholding is itself controlled by Cirio since the shares are in the hands of two Cirio companies, Cirio Holding (15.145 per cent) and Cirio Finanzaria (35.821 per cent). Put simply, Lazio's fate is inextricably linked to that of Cirio.

For the record, the remaining shares in the club are controlled by two banks, Banca Nazionale Del Lavoro (5.728 per cent) and Capitalia (5.70 per cent), and by private stock market investors (37.604 per cent).

With his Cirio empire facing possible bankruptcy relative to debts totalling £700m, Cragnotti had no option but to call in bankers and financiers to help him put together a rescue package. Inevitably, the first thing Cragnotti's advisors told him was to put the family jewellery up for sale. In other words, by early November, Lazio was on the market. Given that the club last season returned a loss of £65m and also the difficult business of evaluating the combined worth of its assets (above all players, but also the impressive Formello training centre and TV rights money owed by the football federation), the sale will clearly be a complex and slow business.

At press time, there was neither a definite buyer nor a definite purchase price. Initial media speculation went on a wild goose chase to come up with a series of unconfirmed candidates including multinationals TimeWarner and Sony, Ernesto Bertarelli – the Switzerland-based Roman pharmaceuticals tycoon and backer of Admiral's Cup yacht Alinghi – Milan businessman Salvatore Ligresti and even Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Gaddafi.

Further concern about the club's immediate future is linked to the obvious consideration that the advisors are certain to press Cragnotti to sell some of his most valued players (Dutchman Jaap Stam, Argentinian Claudio Lopez, Yugoslav Dejan Stankovic, Italian Stefano Fiore etc) when the Italian transfer market opens up again for its traditional January window.

Despite all the uncertainty, though, Lazio kept on playing well. On the very day the club was put up for sale, Lazio clinched a place in the UEFA Cup third round when drawing 1-1 away to Red Star Belgrade.

Perhaps 38-year-old Mancini has been helped by the fact he went through the same experience with Fiorentina only a year ago. Perhaps, more importantly, his intuitive football intelligence and motivational powers are already well on the way to making him just as good a coach as he was a player, when he helped both Sampdoria and Lazio win Serie A titles.

**WORLD SOCCER: How have you managed to keep the players' minds on the job through all the off-field problems?**

ROBERTO MANCINI: Of course my players have their worries about this situation [the Cirio crisis], they're only normal. But the fact that everyone was writing us off before the beginning of the season, saying that we would struggle, that sparked off something inside a number of them, call it pride if you like. That means that when the going gets tough, they are still able to play, and play well.

**As you say, before the season, everyone was writing off Lazio's chances, arguing that a side that had lost players like Alessandro Nesta and Hernan Crespo would simply not prove competitive. How is it that you have proved all the pundits wrong?**

Let's not get too excited just yet because we haven't done anything out of the ordinary. It's true we have had our work cut out, but I always had the feeling we

might do well, simply because I know these players pretty well.

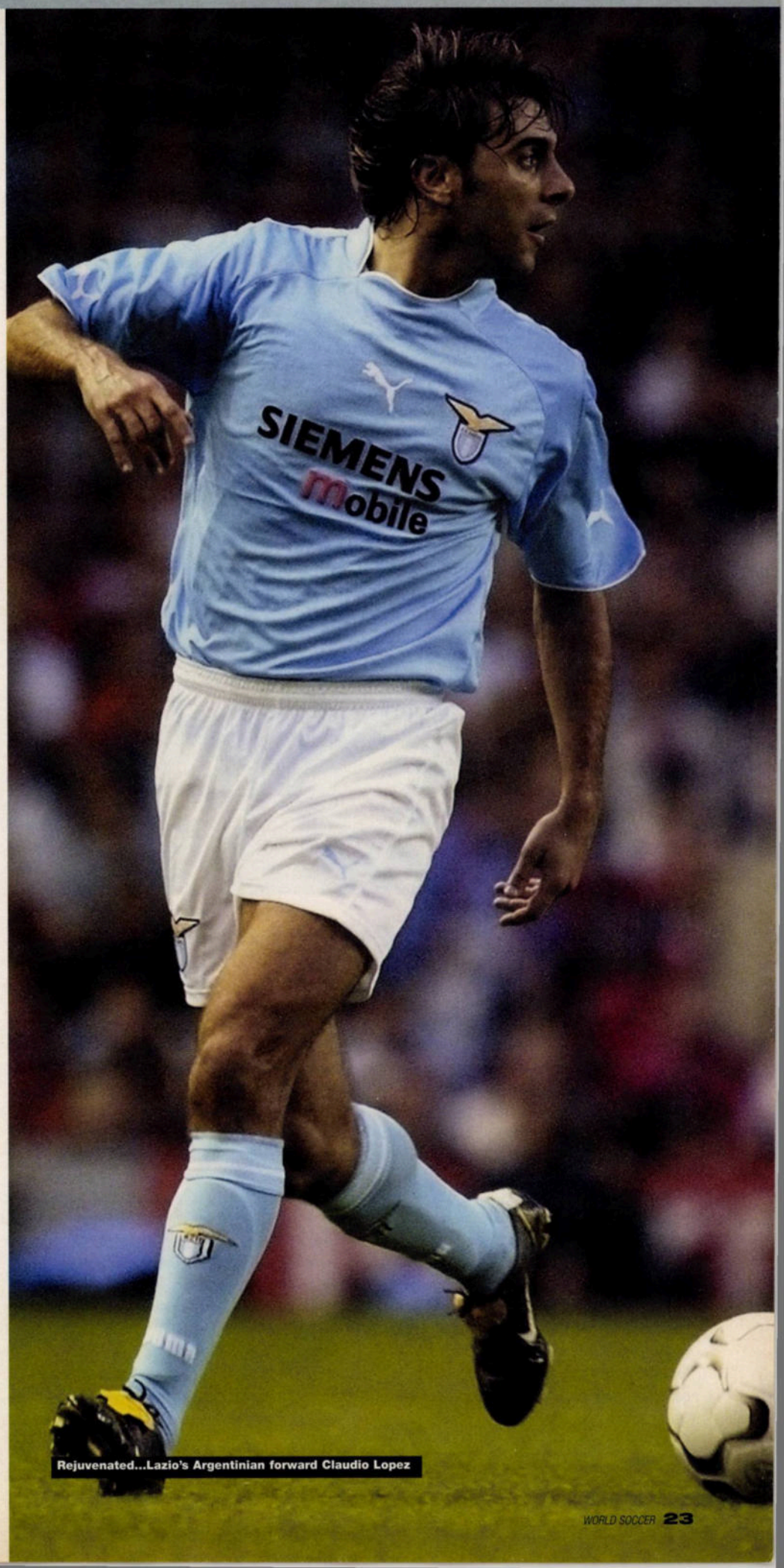
**One of your most remarkable achievements is the regalvanising of players such as Dejan Stankovic, Sinisa Mihajlovic, Stefano Fiore, Cesar and Claudio Lopez, all of whom were pretty anonymous last season. How have you done it?**
They're playing well because they are well in themselves, they don't have worries, and then, of course, these guys are good players. You can say that good players don't always play well but most of the time they do. They can have their periods of poor form, as indeed some of the players you mention did have, but being good players that moment will pass. For me, it's no surprise that these guys are doing well; I know them not just as players but also off the pitch, I know what they're capable of.

**Is it an advantage to have played alongside many of them as a Lazio player, just three seasons ago?**
I don't know about the others but for me it's certainly an advantage. There was plenty of mutual respect and friendship when we were players together, and that has continued. I think a player needs to feel good about himself and that the coach is on his side and wishes him well, in order to give of his best.

**Given the good results obtained by Italian clubs in the first phase of the Champions League, is Italian football on the way back to the top?**
I don't think Italian football is on the way back because it has always been at the top. Sure, you get years when you win less, but you also get years like the late 1980s and the 1990s when Italian clubs dominated. I know results have been bad in recent years but our football remains very competitive. What is true is that the Italian clubs in the Champions League all look stronger this year and they have done well so far.

**Do you miss being a player?**
No doubt about it – but if you have the good luck to be a coach then you don't suffer quite so much.

**Any regrets about your playing career? You had that brief parenthesis with Leicester in England. Was that a good experience?**
Regrets about my career, no. One thing, though, it's a pity I didn't go to England earlier. Football is much more fun there and, apart from the weather, I liked the whole set-up in England. When the team loses, people say too bad and then forget about it, whereas here in Italy when you lose a match, it's a whole big disaster.



Rejuvenated...Lazio's Argentinian forward Claudio Lopez

## Raynald DENOUEIX

# Shock therapy

**Keir Radnedge on the French coach whose surprise appointment has worked wonders at Real Sociedad**

FRENCH coaches are in demand worldwide courtesy of the World Cup triumph of 1998 and the tales of wonder to emerge from the academy set-up at Clairefontaine and provincial club centres such as Auxerre and Nantes.

But they do not always travel so well. Dozens, possibly even hundreds, of French coaches have spread the intellectual football gospel with enormous self-sacrificing dedication and success in Africa. But that has been grassroots work.

Arsene Wenger, Gerard Houllier and – thus far – Jean Tigana have made an impression on the English game. But none of them rose out of the formal French coaching establishment that produced loyal subjects such as Roger Lemerre and Guy Stephan from the federation perspective or Coco Suaudeau and Raynald Denoueix at club level.

Quitting the sheltered French system for the wider world of football is not always an easy or pleasant experience. The structures a French coach takes for granted he must build by hand; directors with different agendas and very different social and cultural backgrounds have to be pressed into line. Simultaneously, winning results are expected.

French football has its own pressures; but the Spanish, Italian and English games are far more pressured and impatient, the media more rapaciously demanding. Lemerre, scapegoat for France's 2002 World Cup disaster, is rebuilding his reputation and self-confidence in Tunisia. His erstwhile aide Stephan has succeeded fellow Frenchman Bruno Metsu in Senegal – where comparisons may be awkward. But at least both men have followed the safest possible management paths feasible.

You cannot say the same for Denoueix, who took a massive career gamble in signing up with Real Sociedad of San Sebastian and who is, thus far at any rate, winning his bet with football fate.

This time last year Sociedad, under John Toshack, were heading for relegation from Spain's Primera Liga. As I write they sit top for the first time in 20 years and remain the only undefeated outfit after 12 matches. They have also scored more goals than anyone else (23).

Denoueix, on the face of it, is the most unlikely character to be carrying all before him in La Liga. For one thing, at 54 he is not exactly in the first flush of brash, energetic coaching youth. For another, he is hardly worldly wise in the ways of high-profile club football. He spent all his playing and coaching days at Nantes, working his way up through the youth academy ranks until he could go no further and found himself bossing the seniors.

Nantes' youth talent production line is self-serving. It raises successive generations of hugely talented teams capable of carrying off the French League crown before the rich vultures swoop. Then it's back to the drawing board to wait for the next generation to make the grade.

The first-team coach is a prisoner of the system's success. Thus Denoueix guided Nantes to the title in 2001 but was then helpless – and the scapegoat – for the following season's slump, when his players had largely lost interest in 'little' Nantes and were turning their eyes towards lucrative contracts elsewhere.

Denoueix could have stuck around. Nantes would have found him a place out of the public eye back in the youth system; several other French clubs would have welcomed his expert guidance in his particular field of youth development.

But Denoueix had different ideas and let it be known on the grapevine that he was looking for a new club. He was delighted when Sociedad came calling. The Basque club, while not holding as rigid a Basques-only line as Athletic Bilbao, have always relied largely on their own resources. Denoueix, knowing the club and its culture and feeling an empathy with his Breton roots, was quickly persuaded this was the club for him.

Denoueix had long dreamed of a role in Spanish football. He says: "My first football memories, when I was a boy, were linked with Real Madrid. I watched all the European Cup matches I could on television to see Di Stefano, Kopa and Puskas. To be ahead of them now in the League is something very special."

He believes the present Madrid may be handicapped by the sheer weight of talent and ego at Vicente Del Bosque's disposal. Denoueix says: "If anything, Madrid have too many good

players. That can make a coach's life difficult, trying to find the right balance for the team. Also, they have a lot of international players who are always going off to play for their countries. That disrupts a coach's work. It also means they are tired or disorientated when they come back."

Hilariously, Denoueix and Sociedad were at cross purposes when they first discussed his move to Guipuzcoa. Denoueix thought they wanted him to take over their youth system and it was only after several phone calls that the centime dropped. "They wanted me as their first-team coach and I had not realised! That was a big surprise but a very pleasant one," he says.

He signed a two-year contract with an option, at his behest, for a third season. Denoueix makes no secret of his wish to make a success of his time in San Sebastian and then, hopefully, retire from the club game. He has a passion for coaching, for the work, but little time for the public profile

**● 'Denoueix originally thought Sociedad wanted him to take over their youth system and it was only after several phone calls that the centime dropped'**

trappings of the job. In professional football, of course, anonymity is impossible and especially so in Spanish football. Fortunately, Denoueix has an able sports director in Robert Olabe, who keeps the administrative weight off his shoulders. Also, he could hardly be more ably assisted than by ex-Spain midfielder Jesus Zamora, who understands the club's special place in the country's football hierarchy.

Not that Denoueix is insensitive to the value of success to the club's wider audience. He says: "Football is all about building dreams, to make people happy and, so far, I am pleased to say we seem to be achieving this. It's a real pleasure to walk down the street and have people telling you that we are going to win the championship. A pleasure but also a big responsibility."

Denoueix's team, disciplined and organised, are a reflection of the man himself. The backbone of the squad are Basques but the first team have a cosmopolitan gloss provided by Dutch goalkeeper Sander Westerveld, Argentinian centre-back Gabriel Schurrer, Russian midfielders Valeri Karpin and Dmitri Khokhlov plus strikers Nihat Kahveci from Turkey and on-loan Yugoslav Darko Kovacevic.

The coach is happy for his players to take whatever glory is going. He sticks by his routine – in his office by nine every morning to check scouts' reports and videos. Several days a week he takes time out for Spanish lessons and then he leads the main training session of the day.

Denoueix, famously, once said: "Sometimes it's an advantage not to have a perfect command of Spanish." Certainly he considers training-ground work preferable by far to training-room lectures.

"With my players I try to be a mixture of friend, coach and tutor, and it's complicated," he says. "For example, I am not persuaded by the concept of rotation. If the team are playing well, I don't like to make changes for changes' sake. But keeping the reserves happy is difficult, sometimes impossible. It all depends on results. If you are winning, everyone is happy and wants to share in the success.

"I am well aware that the past few seasons here have been difficult. But that is probably one of the reasons for our progress. The players reacted to the problems of last year. They didn't want to go through all that again, and you can see the results."

A coach of few words he may be. Clearly, thus far, they have been the right ones.

● *See Nihat Kahveci profile on page 65.*

**Foreign legionnaire...Russian midfielder Valeri Karpin**

**Coming through...Darko Kovacevic bustles past two Athletic Bilbao defenders during the Basque derby**

# Another fine mess.....

Sean Creedon on the background to Mick McCarthy's resignation as national coach

Great divide...the rift between Keane and McCarthy reached the point of no return on Saipan

THE Football Association of Ireland finds itself in a proper mess right now. No stadium of its own, no manager, no general secretary and no news on whether Roy Keane plans to return to international duty.

The country has been split between Keane and Mick McCarthy since the row between captain and the then manager at the World Cup training camp on Saipan in May. McCarthy's resignation last month was seen as a victory for Keane and his supporters.

Some claim Keane was a traitor to desert his country in its hour of need and that McCarthy had no alternative but to send his captain home after the abuse directed at him in front of the rest of the squad. Others are of the opinion that McCarthy backed Keane into a corner and didn't know how to handle his star player.

There is history between McCarthy and Keane going back to Boston, USA, in 1992. Keane, on his first tour with the Irish squad, was one of a group of players who had been out drinking and kept the team coach waiting. Manager Jack Charlton was not happy that such a young and inexperienced player had delayed the party's departure. He lambasted Keane, who promptly riposted that he had not asked anybody to wait for him. McCarthy, then the Irish captain, spoke up and reprimanded Keane and strong words were exchanged.

Keane was sent off in McCarthy's first game in charge, against Russia in March 1996. He then opted out of the end-of-season trip to the United States and didn't play again until November that year.

The rift seemed to have been fully healed when McCarthy travelled to Keane's home near Manchester three years ago to discuss diet and match preparation for the World Cup qualifying campaign. However, it seems that in recent years most of the contact between them was conducted via Irish physio Mick Byrne.

The seeds for the 2002 World Cup row were sown when Keane failed to show up for Niall Quinn's testimonial game at Sunderland on May 14. Some reporters claimed that he had snubbed Quinn, who was donating the proceeds to children's hospitals in Sunderland and Dublin.

But Keane was in France undergoing treatment for a leg injury. He did show up in Dublin two days later and played in the 'farewell friendly' against Nigeria, but was then annoyed that the squad had to fight their way through politicians and supporters at Dublin airport on the first leg of their journey to Saipan.

While waiting for a connecting flight in Amsterdam, Keane let some of the reporters know what he thought of them.

The Irish squad had planned to spend a few days on the sunshine island of Saipan for a little rest and relaxation before moving on to their World Cup base in Izumo.

However, some light training was also planned for Saipan and Keane was furious when the training kit and footballs didn't arrive in time. Then the squad were asked to train on a pitch described as a "car park" by Keane.

"Fail to prepare, prepare to fail" was the phrase he used at the time.

Events took a dramatic turn when Keane told McCarthy he wanted to go home, citing personal reasons. Colin Healy was called up, Keane then changed his mind and Healy was told to stay at home. The Irish captain then gave interviews to two Irish journalists criticising the set-up in Saipan, one of which was published the following day.

McCarthy, armed with a copy of the published article, called a team meeting, heated words were exchanged and Keane was sent home. None of the squad tried to intervene and within hours the senior players issued a statement on behalf of the squad, backing the manager.

Keane was alleged to have said to McCarthy: "Who the **** do you think you are, having meetings about me? You were a crap player and you are a crap manager. The only reason I have any dealings with you is that somehow you are the manager of my country, and you are not even Irish."

McCarthy told the media: "I cannot and will not tolerate the level of abuse that was thrown at me, so I have sent him home."

There followed a series of frantic phone calls between Keane's agent Michael Kennedy and the FAI. Kennedy is also Quinn's agent and the big striker made frantic efforts to try to repair the damage done. Keane gave one interview to Irish television, but the apology that would have smoothed the way for a return to Saipan never came.

The Irish regrouped and amazingly went on to perform heroics before exiting the World Cup after losing on penalties to Spain in the second round. But many Irish supporters were left wondering what might have been had Keane been in the team.

In another interview after the World Cup, Keane hinted he might return to play for Ireland if McCarthy was no longer in charge. That quote and the poor start to the Euro 2004 qualifying campaign was to seal the manager's fate.

The Irish looked leaderless as they

'There was a clear clash of personalities between two stubborn men, and there were no winners in this sad episode for Irish soccer'

went down 4-2 to Russia in Moscow. Then Switzerland ended the Republic's seven-year unbeaten competitive run at Lansdowne Road and the team were booed off the pitch. McCarthy always said the supporters would let him know when it was time to go. So he quit.

"I know the players didn't enjoy the build-up to the Switzerland game, and I felt it was best I leave for the sake of the team," said McCarthy. "My only regret is that I am leaving with no points on the board, which makes it difficult for the team to get to Portugal in 2004."

As a result of the events on Saipan, the FAI commissioned Scottish management consultants Genesis to compile an independent report. Eighty-eight interviews were conducted, and their comprehensive report vindicates most of Keane's complaints. Among the recommendations is that the FAI should appoint a chief executive and five officials from outside its amateur ranks.

Earlier in the qualifying campaign Keane successfully lobbied for better training facilities for the players in Dublin and he also ensured the players, and not FAI officials, got the first-class seats on flights.

This bears out the words of another famous Irishman, playwright George Bernard Shaw, who said: "All progress depends on the unreasonable man."

Looking back, the row was clearly a clash of personalities between two stubborn men, and there were no winners in this sad episode for Irish soccer.

Now everybody is asking if Keane will return to the team when he is fully recovered from his recent hip operation. He has been in Ireland recently for book signings, but refused to talk to the media.

The FAI hope to have a new coach in place by January 1, with his first game in charge a friendly in Scotland on February 12.

Brian Kerr is the Irish media's preferred choice to replace McCarthy. Kerr, who played only at junior level, has had great success with Irish youth teams and also led St Patrick's Athletic to domestic League titles in 1990 and 1996. At youth level he has worked with several of the current Irish squad, including Robbie Keane, Damien Duff and John O'Shea.

After weeks of speculation Kerr formally announced that he was applying for the job. He said: "I have enjoyed my roles as youth team manager and technical director. I believe I am the man best equipped to build on Mick McCarthy's achievements."

## The key figures

Mick McCarthy

**Mick McCarthy**
Basically a decent man, but obviously couldn't handle Keane. Faced a difficult task taking over from Jack Charlton as Ireland manager in February 1996, but built a new team who played a passing game, unlike the route one tactic favoured by Big Jack. Did well to lift team spirit after the Keane row and the Irish played some attractive football in Korea/Japan. Probably should have quit after the World Cup, but held on for two games in the Euro 2004 campaign. He resigned on November 5, 20 days after the 2-1 home defeat by Switzerland.

Roy Keane

**Roy Keane**
Without doubt Ireland's best player in recent years. Expects the same high standards from the FAI as he is used to at Manchester United. As captain he got better training facilities and the best airline seats for his team-mates. Had won 29 caps under Jack Charlton and went on to play a further 29 games under McCarthy. Played in the first leg of the World Cup qualifying play-off against Iran at a time when he had been out of the United team for three weeks. But he annoyed McCarthy by returning to Manchester the morning after the game in Dublin without even wishing his colleagues well for the second leg in Tehran. A loner, he has roomed on his own since the retirement of Denis Irwin.

**Eamon Dunphy**
A former Republic midfielder who has become one of Ireland's most controversial journalists. A good choice to collaborate with Keane on his autobiography as he is neither a fan of the FAI nor McCarthy. Dunphy was also one of the few brave enough to challenge Jack Charlton. Landed Keane in trouble with the English FA for using what he called "artistic licence" to describe the player's clash with Manchester City's Alfie Haaland. Fell out with life-long friend Johnny Giles by claiming some of Giles' tackles were as bad as Keane's.

Eamon Dunphy

**Cathal Dervan**
McCarthy's biographer, who is neither a Dunphy nor Keane supporter. Dervan once urged Irish supporters to "show Roy Keane what they think of him" on his return to the team against Iceland in November 1996, having missed the previous nine games.

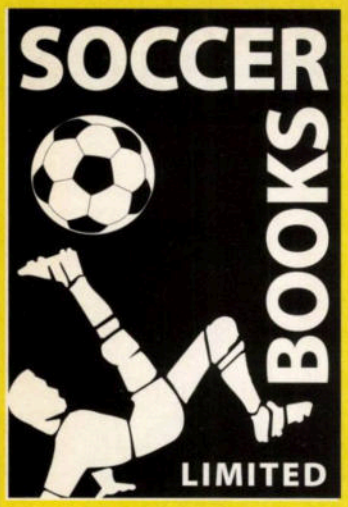
Niall Quinn

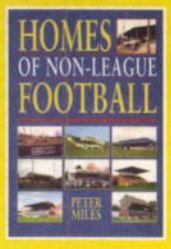
**Niall Quinn**
The World Cup preparations got off to a bad start when Keane was accused of snubbing Quinn's testimonial game in aid of two children's hospitals. On Saipan, Quinn gave some emotional press conferences and proved to be a useful substitute. Later collaborated with Tom Humphries of the *Irish Times* to write a very honest autobiography, and was recently voted Irish sports personality of the year.

Brendan Menton

**Brendan Menton**
Stepped down as FAI general secretary on the day the Genesis report was published, but is staying on to work on other projects with the FAI.

**John Delaney**
FAI treasurer and the man who pushed the idea of the Genesis report. Threatens to step down if its recommendations are not implemented in full in a year.

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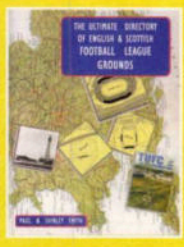


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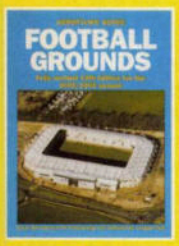


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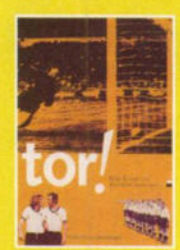


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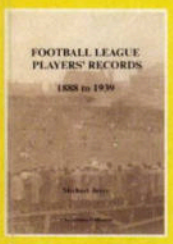


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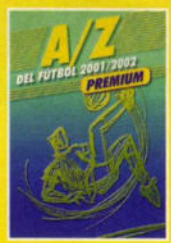


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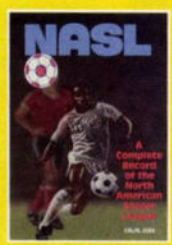


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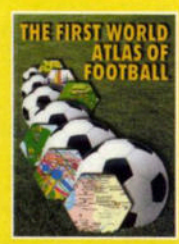


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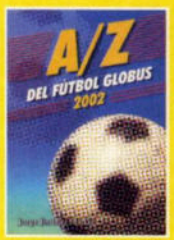


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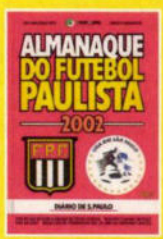


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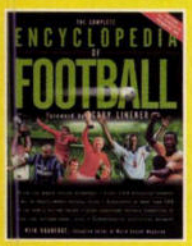


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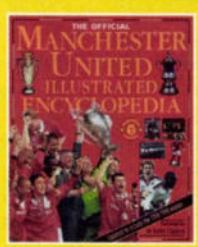


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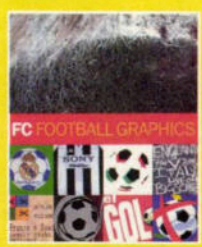


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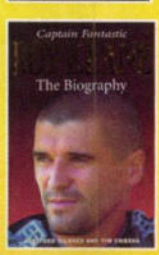


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*Keir Radnedge*
**COMMENTARY**

Facing the facts...Real Madrid president Florentino Perez

# The cap won't fit

## G-14 'gentlemen' ask players to pay for directors' mistakes

THE clubs, the employers, have made all the running thus far in reawakening the spectre of a wage cap in European football. Little has been heard from the players. But that does not mean they will acquiesce. Quite the opposite.

Milan's Portuguese midfielder, Manuel Rui Costa, has raised his head above the parapet to question why footballers should pay for the game's questionable accounting and decision-making.

He says: "There are still huge sums of money coming into the game. But where does it all go? Certainly not all into players' pockets. In fact, players' wages are one of the more quantifiable areas of the game's finance.

"There is still a lot of money disappearing into the game at other levels. When we can see where all the money goes then let's talk about players' wages – but not before."

Italy-based Czech coach Zdenek Zeman is another of the doubters, wondering why players should bear the brunt of sorting out problems created by financial mismanagement at board level.

"The present problems were not created by the players but by directors who decided to pay more than they could afford," says Zeman. "No one forced directors and presidents to give such fat contracts. They should sort out their own house first."

The concept was revisited – after all, English football held to a maximum wage system until the start of the 1960s – by Gerhard Aigner of UEFA in January 2001. Everything then went quiet again until the failure of Fiorentina and the collapse of TV deals in England, Germany, Italy and Greece.

Last month the 18 members of the G-14 group of leading European clubs agreed to introduce a wage ceiling of 70 per cent of turnover by the summer of 2005.

Peter Kenyon, the chief executive of Manchester United who is also a vice-president of G-14, said: "This is not a proposal to set a maximum wage at a specific figure; it is a balanced overall guideline and our understanding is that this would not infringe European law."

He added: "The reality is that across Europe there are too many clubs that are technically bust."

G-14 also includes Real Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia from Spain, Italy's Juventus, Milan and Inter, and England's Arsenal and Liverpool.

Madrid's president, Florentino Perez, said: "This makes sense for everyone from the richest clubs to the smallest clubs. No one can afford to buy a Zidane or Ronaldo every year and we have to recognise the fact and adjust to reality. This is a highly important gentlemen's agreement."

But it is just that – and are all directors such worthy gentlemen?

## Rudi's respectable reality check

ONE of the qualities of German football has been the ability of many of its leading personalities – not all, of course! – to keep their feet on the ground and work to an agenda provided by a realistic assessment of their strengths and weaknesses.

National coach Rudi Voller is a man hewn from that tradition, which bodes well as they prepare to use the 2004 European Championship as a springboard from which to win 'their' World Cup in 2006.

Proof? Easy to find in Voller's assessment of the past year. He said: "We have done our duty in European qualification with six points from two games, even if we did not always play as well as we would have liked. Two of our clubs [Leverkusen and Dortmund] reached European Finals. Lastly, our run to the World Cup Final had not been expected and was more than respectable."

Hear that? Respectable. Can you imagine Fleet Street's reaction if England had reached the World Cup Final?

Modest...Germany coach Rudi Voller

## Bellamy like Beckham

CRAIG BELLAMY, with his sneaky kick at Marco Materazzi behind referee Stephane Bre's back, may have considered himself unlucky to be sent off against Internazionale. On a par with David Beckham against Argentina in the 1998 World Cup finals.

For Bellamy I have no sympathy. He, like Beckham four years ago, is a talented footballer who is also, temperamentally, his own worst enemy.

He may learn from the red card experience against Inter. If not, then he is not the player he promises to be.

Foolish act...Craig Bellamy's red card against Inter

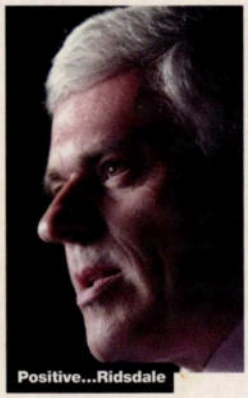
## Fake expectations at Leeds

THE howls of rage emerging from the terraces of Elland Road over the club's slide down the Premiership have me baffled.

Not because the fans are upset at the prospect of a fight against relegation. That's perfectly normal. What surprises me is the underlying tone of expectation that Leeds have a right to be up there with Manchester United, Arsenal and Liverpool.

Leeds' history proclaims a Champions Cup record inferior to that of not only Aston Villa, among others, but also Nottingham Forest; their League title record is inferior to no fewer than eight other clubs (United, Liverpool, Arsenal, Everton, Sunderland, Villa, Newcastle and Sheffield Wednesday); and their FA Cup record places them joint 23rd overall (behind too many clubs to bother listing).

Perhaps Peter Ridsdale's positive style encouraged over-optimism; in which case, his latest profile-lowering exercise might serve both club and chairman well. On the other hand, while fans and media grew impatient at David O'Leary's self-deprecatingly cautious assessment of his "babies", results suggest he was not so far off the mark.


Positive...Ridsdale

## Blatter in the clear

**SO Sepp Blatter is in the clear. The Zurich prosecutor has dropped his investigation into the complaint about all manner of naughty goings-on at FIFA House.**

**Blatter has also apparently been granted the right to sue FIFA to recover his costs – which is weird, given he is supposed to be the boss.**

**Magnanimously, Blatter says he will request only that FIFA makes a donation to a local charity. How can half the executive, who counter-signed the original complaint, remain in office?**

**We await December's executive meeting in Madrid with interest.**

## Oriental out-takes

**THE World Cup is the nearest football gets to an out-of-body experience. To attend the World Cup is like being snatched up into a flying saucer by aliens and lifted out of the real world for a month.**

**All of us have discovered the folly of making judgments inspired by the rarefied atmosphere beyond work-a-day football's ozone layer.**

**Such is the fate that has befallen Mark Perryman's *Going Oriental* (Mainstream, £7.99), a selection of journalistic essays and World Cup travelogue.**

**Nevertheless, an interesting attempt to mix social analysis and fans' travelogue; also a happy reminder of football's heady days on the Pacific rim.**

Serious contender...Roberto Carlos

## The case for Roberto Carlos

REAL MADRID'S success in regaining the World Club Cup provided another predictable volley of adulation for Ronaldo. But, with the European Footballer of the Year award around the corner, he surely rates behind Roberto Carlos in achievement terms.

I just declare a critical interest: in my opinion *France Football* massively devalued their own accolade when they changed the parameters in the mid-1990s.

Initially, the European award was – quite properly – open only to players qualified to play for European national teams.

But then, in the early 1990s, FIFA launched its own FIFA World Player award. The increasingly high profile of the FIFA award irritated the directors of *France Football*. In 1995 they decided to relaunch their award by opening it up to all those footballers playing in Europe.

A misjudgment, in my opinion, but for *France Football*, of course, there can be no going back.

In that case, their journalist voters should go for the man who has achieved a unique treble: Roberto Carlos. After all, no player has ever won the World Cup, World Club Cup and European Champions Cup all in the same calendar year.

No big issue...Jacques Rogge is happy for the Olympic football tournament to keep its current format

# All change at the top

World Soccer exclusive: new IOC president Jacques Rogge in conversation with Keir Radnedge

TO ALL those accustomed to the political style of Havelange, Samaranch and Nebiolo – the kiss-my-feet-and-be-grateful adulationists – Jacques Rogge presents a seismic shock of Richter Scale proportions.

The 60-year-old Belgian orthopaedic surgeon was voted in as president of the International Olympic Committee last year; and the comparison with predecessor Juan Antonio Samaranch and sport's other Latin power brokers of the past three decades could not be greater.

But while Rogge believes in the team ethic rather than the cult of personality, he is no grey man. He has a specific programme and is bent on carrying it through with a refreshing clarity and pragmatism.

A pity an administrator of his calibre was not brought into the football fold years ago. But then, the fact that he was not sums up football's self-defeating political theories: small men do not choose highly competent assistants in case the servant should one day become the master.

Successive presidents of both the Olympic and worldwide football movements have been accused of expanding events to suit both their boastful visions and to accommodate all the favours they had to repay for votes won along the way.

Rogge, as far as the Olympics are concerned, is putting a stop to all that. Football might learn a lesson where the World Cup is concerned.

"We have a congress coming up in Mexico City, at which one of the recommendations is to cut the Games budget by 10 to 15 per cent," says Rogge. "If any new sport is to come in – golf, for example, or rugby sevens – then the same number of sports must be dropped.

"This is the first such programme reforming exercise in 45 years. The last time a sport was deleted was in Berlin in 1936 and that was polo. Since 1948 the IOC has always added sports. We had 17 sports in London, we have 28 today; we had 140 events, we have 300 today; we had 6,000 athletes, we have 10,500 today.

"Of course, since 1948 there has been a lot more money coming into the Olympic movement, particularly from television, and so we could afford bigger Games. However, in December last year we froze the Athens programme to the same level as Sydney."

Rogge is also not as enamoured about football's value to the Olympics as are many deluded folk within the upper echelons of world football itself. Thus he can look quite equably on maintaining the age-limit status quo for the Olympic soccer tournament. Nor is he impressed by football's self-important argument about the crowds drawn to the Olympic tournament.

"Football is without any doubt the most popular sport in the world," concedes Rogge, "but it is not the major sport in the Olympic Games; the biggest is track and field. Also, track and field is more universal because of the black hole of North America, where soccer is still not so popular.

"These two – football and track and field – bring in about the same sort of ticket income. However, ticket sales make up a minimal amount of the budget of the Games. The organisers make their money from television rights and sponsorship.

"Soccer is one of the three or four major sports at the Games and we are happy to have it. It's true that not all the best players participate at the Games, but the Olympic tournament has other qualities.

"The best proof is that the last two Olympic champions came from Africa – a very important development for soccer and for sport in general in that continent.

"Also, the Games are really the most important organisation for women's sport. The women's soccer tournament has probably more appeal than the Women's World Cup. So soccer already brings a lot to the Games.

"I'm not going to fight on the issue of an under-23 event with three over-age players, although I would like, at the least, to maintain that status quo. If FIFA wanted to allow more over-age players then we would be pleased but this will not be allowed to become a sticking point because we have to be realistic.

"It was an issue with my predecessor, who wanted to have the best players at the Olympic Games, but I am happy with the present format. The Olympic Games is not going to be an alternative World Cup and neither should it be."

Rogge's slightly dismissive – he would call it realistic – attitude towards football is revealed again in his views on Africa's

ability to host one or other of the twin pillars of international competitive sport.

"Football is a far easier sport to manage at this level if you look at the numbers," he says. "You have 600 footballers at a World Cup compared with 10,500 athletes at an Olympic Games. You have 64 matches all in one single discipline compared with 300 events across a range of different sports. You have 2.5 million spectators compared with 9.5 million. You don't need an Olympic Village. You have 6,000 or 7,000 media people compared with 25,000. The scale is so different.

"Today, Africa does have the potential to host a World Cup but an Olympic Games is still out of reach, which is why we want to reduce the scope and size of the Games. Then, with the hopeful further development of Africa in terms of infrastructure – because the problem in Africa is infrastructure, nothing else – who knows?

"Anyway, we know South Africa is more interested, in the first instance, to organise a World Cup rather than an Olympics."

Rogge's realism is revealed most graphically when the talk turns to his own influence on the Games and whether his 'handwriting' can be seen on Sydney or Athens.

Doping and test procedures are issues on which the IOC and FIFA have apparently struggled to find common ground, although Rogge believes agreement is around the corner. FIFA, for example, irritated the IOC by refusing to accredit observers from the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) for the post-match dope tests at the World Cup finals in South Korea and Japan.

Yet Rogge, while not pulling any punches, says: "The situation regarding FIFA and WADA is not as bad as you might imagine. I had a very constructive meeting with Sepp Blatter recently which was attended by my fellow Belgian and former school friend, Michel D'Hooghe, the chairman of FIFA's medical commission.

"I told them that I thought FIFA made an error in not accepting the observers of WADA at the dope tests at the World Cup. Michel D'Hooghe argued that he wanted the observers to be qualified doctors – but that could have been done."

The strict-liability anti-doping demand on athletes remains a subject for controversy across all sports, with football having wrestled unhappily with it in the recent cases of positive dope tests on the likes of Frank De Boer, Edgar Davids, Jaap Stam and Fernando Couto.

**● 'It's true not all the best players take part, but the Olympic football tournament has other qualities'**

But Rogge has no doubt it is the only route. He says: "Look, we are not going to win the war against doping. There will always be illegal doping in sport just as there will always be criminality in society. Our aim is to reduce it to the lowest possible level.

"It will be an eternal battle. But the alternative would mean the end of the credibility of sport. That is something we cannot accept.

"You don't always make friends with these things but I was not elected to make friends."

From that point it is a small step to raise the question of the crisis within FIFA, particularly in the run-up to the World Cup earlier this year. Rogge appreciated the problems because the IOC went through a similar crisis over corruption allegations three years earlier. The difference is that the IOC came through with flying colours, whereas one cannot say that right now of FIFA.

"We emerged stronger because the IOC stayed united. Of course, we had a problem but it was more about the IOC v the Rest of the World," says Rogge. "The world was saying to the IOC: 'You are not behaving properly. You have a crisis of responsibility.' But Juan Antonio Samaranch never had any problem in uniting the whole IOC behind him to deal with that.

"It was difficult to bring about reforms. We had to expel eight members, which is never easy, but now everything is fine within the movement.

"The difference with football is that there was no unity within FIFA. It was an internal fight between two groups. That is over now following the FIFA election in Seoul, and I'm sure that Sepp Blatter will devote all his energy to reuniting the family of football.

"I was sad because you never like to see your colleagues and friends having problems. I prefer success to problems. I'm sure we all do."

Achieving it, of course, is something else entirely. Rogge did not say so but the inference was clear enough – football is not yet out of the woods. Perhaps it could learn a useful lesson from the style and the stature of the new kid on the block in Lausanne.

**Leap to glory...Cameroon, the eventual gold medallists, take on Spain in the 2000 Olympic Final in Sydney**

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Future bright...chairman Keane holds plans for Livingston's academy

# The Livingston way

## Ben Hamilton reports on a club striving for success in the shadow of Scotland's Old Firm

FOLLOWING the cries of lament that greeted Scotland's 2-2 draw with the Faroe Islands' part-timers in September, observers unfamiliar with the exploits of the country's national side could have been forgiven for believing they had witnessed a state funeral.

However, for those with a working knowledge of Scottish football, the draw merely confirmed what they had known for some time: that Scotland no longer produces talented players because of a neglect of youth development.

After the Bosman ruling in 1995, Scottish professional clubs took advantage of the availability of cheap foreign talent, turning the country into a net importer of players.

Few clubs were more prone to buy from abroad than Livingston, a small-town club who last season – their first in the Premier League (SPL) – finished third and qualified for the UEFA Cup.

'The fact we're new helps. It's sometimes harder for more established clubs to try new things'

*Livingston commercial manager Charles Burnett*

Livingston have endured criticism from the media for their policy of acquiring foreign talent on free transfers and short contracts. But their announcement in December 1999, when they were still in the First Division, that they intended to build Scotland's first youth academy acted as a wake-up call to the rest of the country.

Although not built yet, Livingston's plans for a £10 million academy and training centre were part of a bold future outlined by chairman Dominic Keane. On taking over the club in February 1998, the former financial consultant unveiled a five-year, five-point plan which he claimed could lay the foundations for future playing success and financial prosperity.

At a time when the gulf between Old Firm clubs Celtic and Rangers and the rest has never been wider, Keane's blueprint set out a guideline to being successful without necessarily competing with the Old Firm.

Much emphasis was placed on youth. Livingston were themselves a young club, having been founded after relocating Edinburgh side Meadowbank Thistle to the new town, some 15 miles to the west of the capital, in the mid-1990s.

Commercial manager Charles Burnett asserts that the club were realistic enough to know that competing with the SPL clubs of nearby Edinburgh and the Old Firm would have been the wrong approach. "We target the second generation," he explains. "Being a new town, we have a lot of young families. An arrangement with the local education services has enabled us to distribute leaflets to all local schools."

New arrivals, both businesses and residents, are similarly targeted. A £175 season ticket, admitting one adult and two children, is the most popular package. Burnett estimates that while the town of Livingston has a population of 50,000, the club have a catchment area of 350,000 in the West Lothian region. Season ticket sales have increased from a couple of hundred in the mid-1990s to over 4,500.

Developing strong links within the town was particularly important. "It's our key," says Burnett. "We've always approached it in the sense that it's their club, the community's club."

The club's off-field revenue-generating activities reflect this. Residents of the town can visit the club's own nightclub, which sits under one of the stands. Local businesses, meanwhile, are settling in in the main stand. Building work on a hotel, which will sit on top of the stand, will begin at the end of the season.

However, while the club are aware that developing strong ties with the community is a lengthy process, they appreciate that they have youth on their side. "We've come a long way, but the fact that we're new helps," says Burnett. "It's sometimes harder for the more established clubs to try new things."

Livingston still have the utmost respect for their bigger rivals, and not just the Scottish ones. They already have a player-exchange deal with Serie A club Brescia, and it is no secret that chairman Keane would love a similar 'Big Brother' deal with Manchester United, from whom the club took a couple of players on loan last season.

The club are also in favour of the North Atlantic Leagues Cup – a proposed mid-season tournament featuring 16 clubs from Scotland, Belgium, Holland, and Denmark.

While Livingston wait to build their academy, they have already demonstrated that there is a bright future for Scottish clubs outside the Old Firm – and that it primarily lies in youth football.

Other Scottish clubs have taken notice. Rangers last season opened an £11m complex at Murray Park, work on Hearts' new £6m academy at Heriot-Watt University's Riccarton campus began in late October, and First Division clubs Inverness Caledonian Thistle and Ross County have approval for a joint project.

The Scottish Football Association is onside as well. In late October it announced that it has procured a sizeable sponsorship contribution from McDonald's which will ensure that 60,000 Scottish schoolchildren will receive free coaching over the next four years.

Scotland's prospects are looking up.

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STORY OF THE MONTH

All white on the night...Guti celebrates scoring Madrid's second goal

# Madrid scale the heights again

## December 3, 2002, Yokohama, WORLD CLUB CUP: Ronaldo and Guti goals seal centenary celebrations for the European champions. Keir Radnedge reports

**Real Madrid (Spa) 2** (Ronaldo 13, Guti 86)
**Olimpia (Par) 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 72,370. **Ref:** Simon (Bra)
**Real Madrid:** Casillas - Michel Salgado, Hierro, Ivan Helguera, Roberto Carlos, Makelele, Cambiasso (Pavon 90), Figo, Raul, Zidane (Solari 85), Ronaldo (Guti 81).
**Olimpia:** Tavarelli - Isasi, P Benitez, Zelaya, Jara, Orteman, Enciso, Caceres, Cordoba (Baez 65), Lopez, M Benitez (Caballero 80).

REAL MADRID imposed their will on their fellow centenarians from Paraguay two days before formally securing the world club crown for the third time in their history.

The European champions, first winners of the formally entitled Intercontinental Club Cup back in 1960, thus ensured that the 100th year would go down in football history as what their fans regarded as appropriate triumph.

But it was a triumph of willpower as much as a victory for natural talent. If sports director Jorge Valdano, coach Vicente Del Bosque and their egotistical players heed the lessons then Madrid will pick up points, goals, victories and more trophies from now to the end of the season. The danger is that success in Yokohama will breed only more of the self-defeating, complacent nonsense that has marred Madrid's first half of term in both Champions and Spanish Leagues.

"Let's hope we can take this form back with us to the Bernabeu," said man of the match Ronaldo. He was probably more sorry than any of his team-mates to fly back to Spain; the Far East has been a magical home from home for the injury-scarred Brazilian.

First he top-scored with eight goals in inspiring his country's World Cup triumph in June, then he returned with two goals in the Brazilians' friendly win over South Korea only a fortnight before returning to Yokohama with Madrid.

Ronaldo may not be at his best but Del Bosque is mightily relieved to have him lining up regularly at all after all the pain and panic of the past four years. That he should strike the decisive opening

goal after just 13 minutes was almost a bonus. But then, that was another lesson that built up Madrid's will to win. The first step in winning the mind game that mattered so much was in persuading Sevilla to postpone (until January 2) the previous weekend's Spanish League match.

So once the domestic draw in Barcelona and Champions League defeat in Milan had been left behind, the squad had a full week to rewind for Yokohama. That was crucial in bringing Raul, Ronaldo, defensive anchor Fernando Hierro and midfield workhorse Claude Makelele back to fitness.

Olimpia sauntered into Yokohama three days ahead of Madrid but it hardly helped them. Morale suffered two early blows. First they lost 3-1 in a friendly to Yokohama F Marinos, then their players returned empty-handed from a shopping trip into Tokyo. To their pained surprise, they had found Japanese prices way beyond their pockets.

Of course, Olimpia's progression to the Final had been as messy as Madrid's. They had been threatened with expulsion from the event by FIFA for launching a lawsuit to try to recoup transfer monies; then they had been pipped to the Paraguayan closing championship title on the last day of term; thirdly, they were upset that Madrid would be playing two players signed since the European Cup Final victory in Ronaldo and returning loanee Esteban Cambiasso.

"We would have signed new players of our own if we had known," said Olimpia president Osvaldo Dominguez. But, of course, that was mere bravado. Olimpia could not afford new players; that was why there was never any question they would play in Yokohama. They needed the money.

Olimpia coach Alberto Nery Pumpido, Argentina's World Cup-winning goalkeeper in 1986, remained cautiously optimistic. "Madrid have great individuals," he acknowledged, "but we have a more solid team and football is a team game."

But the worry lines began to creep across Pumpido's face after a mobile phone call at the end of training two days before the match. The call, from CONMEBOL delegate Eduardo Deluca, was to tell Pumpido that Madrid were insisting on wearing their traditional all-white. Olimpia had hoped to wear their own sashed white strip and thought, naively, it would all be sorted out by a toss of a coin.

Hence, another round to Madrid.

The next point was scored by Del Bosque, reminding his players how they had been caught by surprise twice in the opening minutes two years earlier by Boca Juniors. "This time," said the coach, "the surprise will be ours. This time there will be no regrets for us at the final whistle."

Thirteen minutes had gone when Luis Figo began the move that led the ball to be flipped on via Zinedine Zidane and Roberto Carlos before Raul dummied so Ronaldo could slip the opening goal beyond Olimpia keeper Ricardo Tavarelli.

Olimpia snapped back. Once Rodrigo Lopez rapped a shot just behind Iker Casillas's left-hand goalpost; another time Miguel Angel Benitez was foiled by the keeper's outstretched leg. In between Madrid might have increased their lead but Zidane was off target and Roberto Carlos thumped a free-kick into the wall.

Ronaldo could have wrapped it up three minutes before half-time. But in the stadium where he struck twice against Germany in the World Cup Final he thundered wastefully wide.

The second half saw a steady exchange of possession but few openings. Ronaldo again, Raul, Roberto Carlos and Makelele went close for Madrid; Casillas fielded cleanly at the other end. As time ticked away, so Del Bosque brought on Guti for Ronaldo to reinforce midfield. Ironically, it was the substitute who made the game safe in a far more positive way with his first touch – a near-post header to Figo's right-wing cross.

Ronaldo was handed the accolade of man of the match and the accompanying car, but had Figo or even Casillas taken the award the Brazilian could not have complained.

Madrid's plethora of captains all got to wield the various trophies, the old World Club Cup itself as well as the sponsor's Toyota Cup. Hierro clung on tightly; after all, it may be one of the last on which he lays his hands. Madrid have already agreed the purchase of Ajax's superb young Romanian, Cristian Chivu, as prospective successor.

Madrid will end their centenary year with three trophies – the Champions League Cup, the European Supercup and the World Club Cup. On December 17 and 18 they will also play host to FIFA and a gala match in honour of this club whose president was a member of the world governing body's founding committee back in 1904.

Centenary Day itself, back in March, saw Madrid beaten at home by Deportivo La Coruna in the Spanish Cup Final. Not that anyone remembers that now, of course.

Two more for the trophy cabinet...captain Fernando Hierro with Raul

## WHAT THEY SAID

### Vicente Del Bosque (Madrid coach)

"This proved we are not just a collection of star players. It was a true team effort which will give our season a big lift. It was satisfying not just to win this title in our centenary season but to find our scoring touch again – though we could, and should, have scored more. Still, we hadn't been scoring any goals recently, so that, and the fact that we had several players back from injury, gives us reason to be optimistic about the rest of the season."

### Ronaldo

Key figure...man of the match Ronaldo

"It's been an incredible year for me. Maybe this is a lucky stadium for me but I think you make your own luck. For example, I was upset to miss the Barcelona and Milan games because of flu but that meant I was fully fit for this one. What was most important was to win for the club and take this victory and this kind of form back to the Bernabeu. I felt the same sort of motivation as I did before the World Cup Final. You need those pre-match nerves to bring out the best in you for a big game like this. Now, hopefully, we can win the Champions League again and come back to Japan for the World Club Cup again next December."

### Luis Figo

"I think Ronaldo and Roberto Carlos were the difference between the teams. Maybe Ronaldo could even have scored a couple more goals, but we achieved what we set out to do. It wasn't an easy game."

### Roberto Carlos

"This is obviously a lucky stadium for me – winning the World Club Cup after landing the World Cup here. Olimpia are a good team but we should have punished them more severely after going ahead."

### Alberto Nery Pumpido (Olimpia coach)

"My players showed they could compete with the best team in the world, so I'm very proud of them. Madrid are really a World XI but we showed a lot of good things and created a number of chances. We just didn't take them – and that was the difference."

Clash of the titans...Milan beat Real Madrid in the game of the second phase so far

# Italians lead the way

MILAN and Internazionale maintained the Italian renaissance to launch the second group phase of the UEFA Champions League.

A first-half goal from Andrii Shevchenko earned Milan a 1-0 home win over European champions Real Madrid, while Inter struck ruthlessly to beat Newcastle United 4-1 at St James' Park.

The other notable feature of the opening matchday was that in no fewer than four of the eight matches the ultimate winners recovered after conceding an early goal.

In **Group A**, Barcelona were one of the comeback winners as they maintained their 100 per cent record by defeating Bayer Leverkusen 2-1. Dimitar Berbatov gave Leverkusen, last season's runners-up, a 39th-minute lead but Javier Saviola equalised early in the second half before Marc Overmars sealed the points two minutes from time. Barcelona could have had it sewn up before then had Patrick Kluivert been properly awarded a penalty.

After two wins in the qualifying phase, Barcelona won all six matches in the opening group stage and this victory made it nine out of nine. It was also icing on the cake for Juan Roman Riquelme, whose permanent transfer had been sealed earlier in the day when Barcelona agreed to pay the remaining £3.5million instalment due to Boca Juniors, his Argentinian club.

Barcelona may find Inter more resilient opposition, however. The Italian club threw off the depression of a 1-0 Serie A derby defeat by Milan to sweep Newcastle aside.

Everything went wrong in the first five minutes for Sir Bobby Robson. Domenico Morfeo scored Inter's opener after 65 seconds, then Craig Bellamy was sent off for an off-the-ball punch at Marco Materazzi which was sharply picked up by the referee's assistant. Bellamy missed three first-phase matches through suspension for a butt – picked up by television cameras – when Newcastle played Kyiv Dynamo, but was then the hero with two goals in the dramatic win over Feyenoord in Rotterdam that edged Newcastle into the second phase.

● 'Shevchenko's 40th-minute strike from Manuel Rui Costa's long through ball underlined the quality of the Italian resurgence'

At least Bellamy accepted his share of the blame later after goals from Matias Almeyda (35 minutes), Hernan Crespo (45) and substitute Alvaro Recoba (81) rubbed salt into the wounds. Newcastle pulled one back with 18 minutes remaining through Nolberto Solano. They were, however, fortunate to end up with even 10 men on the pitch; skipper Alan Shearer benefited from a crowded penalty box to escape instant punishment for an elbow into the back of Fabio Cannavaro's head.

TV did not miss the incident, however, and Shearer was duly charged by UEFA and banned for two matches.

Arsenal snatched the initial leadership of **Group B** by winning 3-1 away to Roma thanks to a superb hat-trick from Thierry Henry. Antonio Cassano fired Roma in front after four minutes with a shot that curled off one post and in off the other, but Henry levelled two minutes later after slicing into the Roma defence from the left.

His second goal was an opportunist strike through the legs of goalkeeper Francesco Antonioli after Roma failed to clear a cross and his third was a direct free-kick.

In the other group match, Valencia looked uncharacteristically hesitant at home to Ajax, who took the lead after 88 minutes when substitute Zlatan Ibrahimovic converted a pass from Rafael Van der Vaart. Valencia saved a point with an injury time equaliser from Miguel Angel Angulo.

**Group C** produced the defining result of the opening second phase matchday with Milan extending to five matches their all-time 100 per cent home record against Real Madrid.

The recalled Shevchenko's 40th-minute strike from Manuel Rui Costa's long through ball underlined the quality of the Italian resurgence.

Four Serie A clubs are still in the Champions League, the same representation as Spain and more than both the English Premiership and German Bundesliga.

Madrid were without the injured Fernando Hierro and Claude Makelele as well as flu victim Ronaldo. Defeat meant they had not won in the Champions League since demolishing Genk 6-0 in September and had gone five games without victory in the competition.

In the other group game, Borussia Dortmund bounced back from a goal down to win 2-1 away to newly crowned Russian champions Lokomotiv Moscow. Sergei Ignashevich put the hosts ahead in the 31st minute but their lead lasted only two minutes. Torsten Frings equalised and Jan Koller edged Dortmund ahead just before the interval.

In **Group D**, Ruud Van Nistelrooy demonstrated his goal-grabbing class with two superb strikes as Manchester United struck back to beat Basle 3-1 in the St-Jakob-Park.

Christian Gimenez struck after just 35 seconds and Basle held their lead until the 62nd minute when Van Nistelrooy headed home a cross from Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. The Dutchman scored his second 90 seconds later from a seemingly impossible angle.

Juventus staged a comeback of their own in the other game, recovering from being two goals down after 11 minutes to draw with Deportivo in La Coruna. Diego Tristan opened the scoring after nine minutes and Roy Makaay struck two minutes later.

Depor sat back and paid for their complacency. First new Italy full-back Alessandro Birindelli cut in from the left and fired home right-footed seven minutes before half-time, then Pavel Nedved converted Alex Del Piero's assist 57 minutes.

*Keir Radnedge*

# INTERNATIONALS

## Wednesday, November 6

*Nov 6 - St Lucia - friendly*
**St Lucia 0**
**Martinique 2**
**HT:** 0-2

## Friday, November 8

*Nov 8 - St Lucia - friendly*
**St Lucia 2**
**Antigua & Barbuda 1**

## Sunday, November 10

*Nov 10 - Singapore - Tiger Beer Challenge Trophy*
**Singapore 1** (Juraimi 38)
**Indonesia 1** (Nahumarury)
**HT:** 1-0
*Singapore 4-3 on pens*
**Singapore:** Saleh (Hassan 46) - Sivakumar, Mahamud (Sawardi 46), Subramani, Iskandar, Latiff (Baksin 46), Jeyapal (N Ali 46), Chuan (Rahman 44), Zainal (R Ali 46), Shah (Goncalves 46), Juraimi (Sahdan 46).
**Indonesia:** Kartiko - Sugiyantoro, Tecuari, Supriyono (Alim 75), Setyabudi (Ali 63), Yusuf, Syaputra (Gede 53), Aiboy (Sudarsono 88), Nahumarury (Nawawi 72), Arief (Ichwan 65), Pamungkas (Christiawan 77).

## Sunday, November 17

*Nov 17 - Washington DC - friendly*
**United States 2** (Olsen 31, Victorine 60)
**El Salvador 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 13,590. **Ref:** Prendergast (Jam)
**USA:** Howard (Rimando 46) - Victorine, Bocanegra, Califf, Barrett, Mastroeni (Cullen 46), Klein, Olsen (Martino 76), Donovan, Mathis, Twellman (Cunningham 84).
**El Salvador:** Gomez - Quintanilla (Menjivar 46), V Velasquez, M Gonzalez, Pacheco (J Mejia 76), Carballo, Murgas, Torres, Corrales, Galdamez, D Mejia (Fuentes 82).

## Tuesday, November 19

*Nov 19 - Johannesburg - Nelson Mandela Challenge*
**South Africa 1** (Bartlett 66)
**Senegal 1** (Niang 68)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Tangawarima (Zim)
*Senegal 4-1 on pens*
**South Africa:** Arendse - Lekgwathi, A Mokoena, Mabizela, Makhanya, Sibaya (Vilakazi 76), Mazibuko, Zuma, Buckley (Maselesele 84), Bartlett (Zwane 84), Mayo (Manyathela 57).
**Senegal:** Sylva - Beye, A Cisse, Diatta, P M Diop, Sylvain N'Diaye (P Sarr 57), Moussa N'Diaye, Fadiga (Diabang 83), S Camara (Makhtar N'Diaye 64), Niang, Diawara.

## Wednesday, November 20

*Nov 20 - Vienna - friendly*
**Austria 0**
**Norway 1** (Kah 81)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 15,800. **Ref:** Abraham (Hun)
**Austria:** Mandl (Macho 46) - Ehmann, Martin Hiden, Pogatetz, Schopp (Scharner 5), Aufhauser, Herzog (Weissenberger 61), Flogel, Orman, Schottel (Kahraman 4; Akagunduz 77), Wallner (Dollinger 84).
**Norway:** Holtan - Basma (Hansen 76), Hangeland, Lundekvam, Bergdolmo, Leonhardsen (Kah 68), Andersen, Winsnes (Flo 46), Riise, Solskjaer (Rushfeldt 76), Iversen.

*Nov 20 - Baku - EC qual*
**Azerbaijan 0**
**Wales 2** (Speed 10, Hartson 70)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Huyghe (Blg)
**Azerbaijan:** Gasanzade - Kerimov (F Mamedov 46), Yadullayev, Akhmedov (Asadov 76), Niftaliev, Imameliev, S Aliyev, Sadygov, M Gurbanov (Ismailov 64), Vasilyev, G Gurbanov.
**Wales:** P Jones - Delaney (Weston 73), Melville, Page, Barnard, Speed, Earnshaw (Roberts 90), Davies, C Robinson (Trollope 90), Giggs, Hartson.

*Nov 20 - Nicosia - EC qual*
**Cyprus 2** (Rauffmann 50, Okkas 74)
**Malta 1** (Michael Mifsud 90)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Guenov (Bul)
**Cyprus:** N Panayiotou - Spyrou, Okkarides, Ioakim, Konnafis, Theodotou, Satsias (Michael 61), Kaiafas, Okkas, Constantinou (N Nicolaou 66), Rauffmann (Yiasoumi 71).
**Malta:** Muscat - Chetcuti, Dimech, Said, Mamo (Miguel Mifsud 74), Carabott, Bogdanovic, Giglio (Theuma 80), Agius, A Mifsud (Mallia 61), Michael Mifsud.

*Nov 20 - Teplice - friendly*
**Czech Republic 3** (Fukal 8, Vachousek 45, Baros 63)
**Sweden 3** (Nilsson 29, 43, Allback 65)
**HT:** 2-2. **Att:** 10,238. **Ref:** Bosat (Tur)
**Czech Republic:** Cech (Cerny 46) - Fukal, Ujfalusi (Johana 16), Bolf, Grygera (Hubschman 74), Poborsky (Kolomaznik 62), Galasek (Gedeon 46), Nedved (Dostalek 68), Smicer (Jarosik 46), Vachousek, Baros (T Dosek 81).
**Sweden:** Isaksson - Lucic, Jakobsson, Michael Svensson, Edman (N-E Johansson 69), Kallstrom, Nilsson (A Johansson 66), A Svensson, Bakircioglu, Allback, Elmander (Skoog 66).

*Nov 20 - Copenhagen - friendly*
**Denmark 2** (Tomasson 23, Larsen 72)
**Poland 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 15,364. **Ref:** Bossen (Hol)
**Denmark:** Skov-Jensen - Helveg, Albrechtsen, Henriksen, N Jensen, Poulsen (Larsen 46), Gravesen, Martin Jorgensen (Michaelsen 69), Rommedahl (Johansen 82), Tomasson, Sand (Gronkjaer 46).
**Poland:** Dudek - Baszczynski, Kaluzny, J Bak, Ratajczyk, Dabrowski (Kaczorowski 63), Kukielka (Wasilewski 75), Swierczewski, Kosowski, Zurawski (Kuzba 75), Olisadebe (Niedzielan 60).

*Nov 20 - Quito - friendly*
**Ecuador 2** (A Aguinaga pen 75, Kaviedes 85)
**Costa Rica 2** (Chinchilla 29, Herron 45)
**HT:** 0-2. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Ramos (Ecu)
**Ecuador:** Ibarra - De la Cruz, I Hurtado, Poroso, R Guerron (C Tenorio 53), Chala, M Ayovi, E Tenorio (Sanchez 71), A Aguinaga, Kaviedes, Asencio (W Ayovi 71).
**Costa Rica:** R Gonzalez - Patterson, Drummond, Soto, V Cordero, Herron, Diach (Sequeira 73), Chinchilla, Marin, C Castro, Bryce.

*Nov 20 - Tallinn - friendly*
**Estonia 2** (Viikmae 75, Oper 88)
**Iceland 0**
**HT:** 0-0

*Nov 20 - Saint-Denis - friendly*
**France 3** (Carriere 11, 49, Kapo 69)
**Yugoslavia 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Iturralde Gonzalez (Spa)
**France:** Barthez - Thuram (Pedretti 79), Gallas, Desailly (Mexes 46), Brechet (Silvestre 13), Makelele (Wiltord 53), Petit, Carriere (Giuly 82), Kapo, Marlet, Henry (Moreira 75).
**Yugoslavia:** Jevric - M Markovic, Krstajic (I Dudic 85), Mihajlovic (Stefanovic 60), Vidic, Dragutinovic, D Stankovic (Boskovic 70), Duljaj (Trobok 68), P Djordjevic (Koroman 52), Kezman, Kovacevic (Milosevic 46).

*Nov 20 - Gelsenkirchen - friendly*
**Germany 1** (Bobic 34)
**Holland 3** (Kluivert 22, Hasselbaink 69, Van Nistelrooy 79)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 60,601. **Ref:** Dallas (Sco)
**Germany:** Kahn - Rehmer, Baumann, Friedrich, Frings, Jeremies (Kehl 46), Ballack, Bohme (Neuville 78), Schneider, Bobic (Asamoah 68), Klose (Freier 46).
**Holland:** Van der Sar - Ricksen, Stam, F De Boer (Reiziger 46), Zenden, Seedorf, Bosvelt, Cocu (Van der Vaart 46), Davids, Makaay (Hasselbaink 65), Kluivert (Van Nistelrooy 46).

*Nov 20 - Athens - friendly*
**Greece 0**
**Rep Ireland 0**
**Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Trentalange (Ita)
**Greece:** Nikopolidis (Chiotis 46) - Fissas (Venetidis 46), Dabizas (Goumas 46), Kyrgiakos, Seitaridis (Patsatzoglou 46), Giannakopoulos (Georgiadis 46), Tsartas (Amanatidis 46), Basinas (Zagorakis 60), Karagounis (Kafes 60), Nikolaidis (Papadopoulos 46), Haristeas.
**Rep Ireland:** Given - Finnan, Cunningham, O'Shea, Dunne, Healy, Holland, Carsley, McPhail, Doherty, Crowe (Delap 85).

*Nov 20 - San Pedro Sula - friendly*
**Honduras 1** (Nunez 74)
**Colombia 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Sabillon (Hnd) (Batres (Gtm) 15min)
**Honduras:** Valladares - Alvarez, R Morales, Medina, S Caballero (Berrios), Turcios (W Martinez 46), M Suazo, Hernandez (Mendoza 46), Bonilla (E Martinez 46), Nunez, D Suazo.
**Colombia:** Calero - Bedoya, Mera, Orozco, Vallejo, J Restrepo (A Ramirez 85), Banguero, Ferreira (Perea 81), Murillo, Castillo (Calle 46), Becerra. *Sent off: Vallejo 42min.*

*Nov 20 - Budapest - friendly*
**Hungary 1** (Dardai 55)
**Moldova 1** (Patula 16)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Sowa (Aut)
**Hungary:** Kiraly (Babos 46) - Urban, Korolovszky, Gyepes (Juhar 46), C Feher (Bodnar 46), Lisztes, Lipcsei (Zavadszky 46), Dardai, Szamosi (Boor 68), Gera (Kenesei 46), Tokoli (Kabat 46).
**Moldova:** Hmaruc - Covalenco, Olexic, Pusca, Catinsus, Cebotari, Covalciuc, S Ivanov (Lungu 59), Frunza (Dadu 70), Boret (Priganiuc 62), Patula (Golban 46).

*Nov 20 - Pescara - friendly*
**Italy 1** (Vieri 38)
**Turkey 1** (Emre Belozoglu 29)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 17,550. **Ref:** Garibian (Fra)
**Italy:** Buffon (Toldo 46) - Birindelli, Cannavaro (Legrottaglie 65), Iuliano, Zauri (Ferrari 80), Di Natale (Pancaro 85), Perrotta, Di Biagio (Ambrosini 46), Nervo (Pirlo 79), Vieri (F Inzaghi 46), Del Piero (Di Vaio 65).
**Turkey:** Omer (Zafer 88) - Fatih Akyel, Alpay (Emre Asik 79), Bulent (Umit Ozat 79), Ergun (Ibrahim 88), Okan (Hasan Sas 62), Tugay (Serhat 62), Emre Belozoglu (Cihan 46), Basturk (Tayfur 46), Ilhan (Tuncay 88), Arif (Erkan 79).

*Nov 20 - Tokyo - friendly*
**Japan 0**
**Argentina 2** (Sorin 46, Crespo 48)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 61,816. **Ref:** Mane (Kuw)
**Japan:** Narazaki - Akita, Narahashi (Yamada 62), Nakanishi, Matsuda, Fukunishi, K Nakata, Ogasawara (Endo 67), Nakamura (Alex 58), Takahara, T Suzuki (Nakayama 55).
**Argentina:** Cavallero - Quiroga (Pochettino 88), Ayala, Samuel, Zanetti, Almeyda, Veron, Sorin, Ortega (Saviola 72), Crespo (Solari 83), Claudio Lopez (Kily Gonzalez 64).

*Nov 20 - Hesperange - friendly*
**Luxembourg 0**
**Cape Verde Islands 0**

*Nov 20 - Skopje - friendly*
**Macedonia 2** (Vasoski 63, Sedloski 89)
**Israel 3** (Zandberg 19, Nimni 28, Biton 90)
**HT:** 0-2

*Nov 20 - Rabat - friendly*
**Morocco 1**
**Mali 3**
**HT:** 1-0

*Nov 20 - Lagos - friendly*
**Nigeria 0**
**Jamaica 0**
**Ref:** Quartey (Gha)

*Nov 20 - Braga - friendly*
**Portugal 2** (Pauleta 8, 17)
**Scotland 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Anghelinei (Rom)
**Portugal:** Quim (Nelson 85) - Rui Jorge (Jorge Ribeiro 57), Fernando Meira, Fernando Couto, Ricardo Rocha, Figo (Marco Ferreira 46), Tiago (Nuno Assis 83), Rui Costa (Pedro Mendes 57), Sergio Conceicao, Pauleta (Nuno Gomes 46), Simao (Neca 77).
**Scotland:** Douglas - Dailly, Pressley, Wilkie (Severin 83), Ross (Devlin 46), Lambert (Williams 68), Anderson (McInnes 22), G Alexander, Naysmith, Dobie (Kyle 77), Crawford.

*Nov 20 - Doha - friendly*
**Qatar 2** (Hamid 79, Ali Hussein og 83)
**Iraq 1** (Manajid 39)
**HT:** 0-1
**Qatar:** Al-Romaihi - Rashid (Alabuyanin 60), Fatah, Al-Noubi (Al-Haj 73), Al-Miri, Al-Ghanim, Mahmoud (Al-Tamimi 80), Al-Shammari, Mubarak, Yassir, Hamid. *Sent off: Al-Miri 85min.*
**Iraq:** Sabri - Ali Hussein, Yousef, Abbas, Muhsin (Talaa 75), Tahar, Akram, Sadir (Najib 46; Salah 86), Sattar (Mulla-Mohammed 53), Mahmoud, Manajid.

*Nov 20 - Timisoara - friendly*
**Romania 0**
**Croatia 1** (T Maric 48)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Megyebiro (Hun)
**Romania:** Vintila (Stelea 46) - Radoi (Iencsi 50), Gheorghe Popescu (Soava 72), Chivu, Contra (Stoican 72), Ghioane (Schumacher 46), D Munteanu (O Petre 86), Rat, Cernat (Niculae 46), Ganea (Pancu 22), Ilie (Sanmartean 59).
**Croatia:** Pletikosa - Zivkovic, Tokic, Tomas, Dolonga (Mumlek 83), Srna, Rosso (Agic 77), J Leko, Babic, Balaban (T Maric 46), Olic (M Maric 30; Bule 90).

*Nov 20 - Serravalle - EC qual*
**San Marino 0**
**Latvia 1** (Valentini og 89)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 600. **Ref:** Khudiev (Aze)
**San Marino:** F Gasperoni - Valentini, Gennari (Albani 86), S Bacciocchi, Matteoni, Gobbi, Muccioli, Michele Marani (Zonzini 53), P Montagna (De Luigi 59), A Selva, Vannucci.
**Latvia:** Kolinko - Stepanovs, Astafjevs, Zemlinskis, Kolesnicenko (Prohorenkovs 57), Blagonadezdins, Isakovs, Bleidelis (Stolcers 46), Pahars, Rubins, Verpakovskis (Mihołaps 63).

*Nov 20 - Trnava - friendly*
**Slovakia 1** (Karhan pen 61)
**Ukraine 1** (Melaschenko 84)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 2,859. **Ref:** Marczyk (Pol)
**Slovakia:** Bucek - Klimpl, Dzurik, Hlinka, Pinte (Hodur 46), Michalik (Kissel 86), Petras, Karhan (Mintal 69), Leitner (Cisovsky 63), Bencik (Fabus 74), Reiter (Kozlej 46).
**Ukraine:** Shutkov (Reva 46) - Tymoshchuk (Lysytskyi 77), Dmytrulin, Fedorov, Zubov, Kormiltsev (Starostyak 46), Husin (Levchenko 46), Radchenko (Nesmachnyi 46), Shevchenko, Vorobei (Melaschenko 61), Voronin (Kalinichenko 70).

*Nov 20 - Seoul - friendly*
**South Korea 2** (Seol Ki-hyeon 8, Ahn Jung-hwan 58)
**Brazil 3** (Ronaldo 16, 68, Ronaldinho pen 90)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 63,000. **Ref:** Lu (Chn)
**South Korea:** Lee Woon-jae (Kim Byung-ji 85) - Hong Myung-bo (Kim Dae-eui 72), Kim Tae-young, Choi Jin-cheul, Song Chong-gug (Choi Tai-uk 52), Yoo Sang-chul, Kim Nam-il, Lee Young-pyo (Hyun Young-min 85), Lee Chun-soo (Kim Do-hoon 80), Ahn Jung-hwan (Choi Yong-soo 59; Hwang Sun-hong 88), Seol Ki-hyeon (Cha Doo-ri 74).
**Brazil:** Dida - Cafu (Belletti 88), Edmilson, Lucio, Roberto Carlos, Gilberto Silva, Kleberson, Ze Roberto, Ronaldinho, Amoroso, Ronaldo.

*Nov 20 - Granada - friendly*
**Spain 1** (Jose Mari 10)
**Bulgaria 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Coue (Fra)
**Spain:** Casillas (Canizares 46) - Michel Salgado, Puyol (Ivan Helguera 46), Marchena, Raul Bravo, Albelda, Baraja (Xavi 46), Mendieta (Etxeberria 46), Guti (Capi 60), Vicente (Capdevila 78), Jose Mari (Diego Tristan 46).
**Bulgaria:** Zdravkov (Kolev 78) - Kishishev, I Petkov (Stoyanov 69), Kirilov, G Petrov (Zagorcic 46), Borimirov (Yanchev 78), Stilian Petrov (Svetoslav Petrov 69), Peev (Dimitrov 69), Berbatov, M Petrov, Manchev (Chilikov 46).

*Nov 20 - Tunis - friendly*
**Tunisia 0**
**Egypt 0**
**Tunisia:** Azaiez - Trabelsi (Boussaidi), Toujani (Chaabani), Marzouki, Yahia, Badra, Mnari (Boujelbane), Melki (Sellami), Nafti, Benachour (Kanzari), Jaziri, Zitouni (Selliti).
**Egypt:** N El-Sayed - H Said (Ikrami), Abdelhadi, Tabii, Saqa, Abdelaziz, Emam (Thamer), Belal (Abdelhamid), Abdallah (Jouda), T Said, Hossam.

*Nov 20 - Caracas - friendly*
**Venezuela 1** (Paez 49)
**Uruguay 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 27,000
**Venezuela:** Angelucci - Vallenilla, Vielma, R Mea Vitali (Rey 37), Rojas (Ribero 79), L Vera, Jimenez (M Mea Vitali 18), Paez (Garcia 72), Arango (H Gonzalez 62), Moran (Urdaneta 46), Noriega (Moreno 62).
**Uruguay:** Munua - Anchen (Ramirez 85), Gonzalez, Bizera, Lima, O Morales (Broli 77), Eguren, R Olivera, Liguera (Canobbio 56), R Morales, Hornos (Vargas 66).

### Saturday, November 23

*Nov 23 - friendly*
**Bahrain 2**
**Iraq 2**
**HT:** 1-0

### Monday, November 25

*Nov 25 - Lagos - friendly*
**Nigeria 1**
**Egypt 1**
**HT:** 0-1

### Wednesday, November 27

*Nov 27 - Sri Lanka - friendly*
**Sri Lanka 1**
**Vietnam 2**

### Thursday, November 28

*Nov 28 - Abu Dhabi - friendly*
**United Arab Emirates 2** (Ibrahim 25, Nasrullah 40)
**Singapore 1** (Nasir)
**HT:** 2-0

### Friday, November 29

*Nov 29 - friendly*
**Jordan 1**
**Malaysia 0**

*Nov 29 - Sri Lanka - friendly*
**Sri Lanka 1**
**Vietnam 1**
**HT:** 0-0

### Saturday, November 30

*Nov 30 - friendly*
**Jordan 3**
**Singapore 1**
**HT:** 1-1

### Sunday, December 1

*Dec 1 - Sri Lanka - friendly*
**Sri Lanka 2**
**Vietnam 2**
**HT:** 0-1

# GOLD CUP 2003 QUALIFIERS

## CARIBBEAN ZONE

### Group A

*Nov 13 - Macoya, Trinidad*
**St Kitts & Nevis 2** (Isaac 38, 56)
**St Lucia 1** (Lastic 78)
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Forde (Bar)
*Sent off: Isaac (St Kitts & Nevis) 78min.*

*Nov 15 - Port-of-Spain, Trinidad*
**Trinidad & Tobago 2** (Glasgow 38, Noray 60)
**St Kitts & Nevis 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Faneijte (A&B)

*Nov 17 - Macoya, Trinidad*
**Trinidad & Tobago 0**
**St Lucia 1** (McVane 54)
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Forde (Bar)

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Trinidad & Tob | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| St Lucia | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| St Kitts & Nevis | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |

*Dominica withdrew*

### Group B

*Nov 27 - Grand Cayman, Cayman Is*
**Martinique 4** (Rano 70, 82, Duragrin 83, J Goron 89)
**Dominican Republic 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Grant (Hai)
*Sent off: Lopez (Dominican Rep) 49min.*

*Nov 27 - Grand Cayman, Cayman Is*
**Cayman Islands 0**
**Cuba 5** (Driggs 21, More 23, 77, Dalcourt 80, Galindo 86)
**HT:** 0-2. **Ref:** Prendergast (Jam)

*Nov 29 - Grand Cayman, Cayman Is*
**Martinique 1** (Lavril 43)
**Cuba 2** (More 38, Dalcourt 60)
**HT:** 1-1. **Ref:** Prendergast (Jam)
*Sent off: Vaton (Martinique) 41min.*

*Nov 29 - Grand Cayman, Cayman Is*
**Cayman Islands 1** (Forbes 27)
**Dominican Republic 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Grant (Hai)
*Sent off: Fagan 66min, L Ramoon 71min (both Cayman Is)*

*Dec 1 - Grand Cayman, Cayman Is*
**Dominican Republic 1** (Marino 20)
**Cuba 2** (Lopez og 63, Prado 67)
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Grant (Hai)

*Dec 1 - Grand Cayman, Cayman Is*
**Cayman Islands 0**
**Martinique 3** (J Goron 53, Percin 61, 86)
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Prendergast (Jam)

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cuba | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 2 | 9 |
| Martinique | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 6 |
| Cayman Islands | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 3 |
| Dominican Rep | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 0 |

### Group C

*Nov 9 - St George's, Grenada*
**Barbados 1** (Goodridge 88)
**Jamaica 1** (Hall 90)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Murray (T&T)

*Nov 9 - St George's, Grenada*
**Grenada 4** (C Bain 14, K Bain 45, P Modeste 47, Williams 77)
**Guadeloupe 5** (Cassubie 30, 43, 68, E Mocka 35, Lambourde 54)
**HT:** 2-3. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Brizan (T&T)

*Nov 11 - St George's, Grenada*
**Jamaica 2** (Johnson 56, Hall 58)
**Guadeloupe 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 2,500. **Ref:** Brizan (T&T)

*Nov 11 - St George's, Grenada*
**Grenada 0**
**Barbados 2** (Lucas 66, Goodridge 90)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 2,500. **Ref:** Murray (T&T)

*Nov 13 - St George's, Grenada*
**Barbados 0**
**Guadeloupe 1** (Vertot pen 83)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 3,250. **Ref:** Brizan (T&T)

*Nov 13 - St George's, Grenada*
**Grenada 1** (Ettienne 75)
**Jamaica 4** (Johnson 8, 40, Hall 58, 90)
**HT:** 0-2. **Att:** 3,250. **Ref:** Murray (T&T)

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jamaica | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 7 |
| Guadeloupe | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Barbados | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| Grenada | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 11 | 0 |

### Group D

*Nov 18 - Port-au-Prince, Haiti*
**Haiti 1** (Lormera 48)
**Antigua & Barbuda 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Bowen (Cay)

*Nov 20 - Port-au-Prince, Haiti*
**Antigua & Barbuda 1** (Jeffers 77)
**Dutch Antilles 1** (Forbuis 88)
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Bowen (Cay)

*Nov 22 - Port-au-Prince, Haiti*
**Dutch Antilles 0**
**Haiti 3** (Lormera 5, Gilles 45, Menelas 75)
**HT:** 0-2. **Ref:** Bowen (Cay)

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Haiti | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 6 |
| Antigua & Barb | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Dutch Antilles | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 |

*Surinam withdrew*

*Top two from each group qualify for final phase of Caribbean qualifiers, to be held in April 2003*

# EUROPE

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

### 1st group phase

### Group A

**November 12**

**Arsenal (Eng) 0**
**PSV Eindhoven (Hol) 0**
**Att:** 35,274. **Ref:** Ovrebo (Nor)
**Arsenal:** Shaaban - Luzhnyi, Cygan, Stepanovs, Toure - Pires, Vieira (Gilberto Silva 78), Edu, Van Bronckhorst - Jeffers (Wiltord 70), Henry (Bergkamp 64). *Sent off: Toure 35min.*
**PSV:** Waterreus - Bogelund, Ooijer (Vennegoor of Hesselink 80), Hofland, Bouma - Van Bommel, Vogel (Lucius 42) - Bruggink (Van der Schaaf 71), Robben, Rommedahl - Kezman.

**Auxerre (Fra) 1** (Mwaruwari 76)
**Borussia Dortmund (Ger) 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 19,000. **Ref:** Corpodean (Rom)
**Auxerre:** Cool - Radet, Boumsong, Grichting, Jaures - Mathis, Tainio (Mwaruwari 46), Lachuer, Faye, Fadiga - Cisse.
**Dortmund:** Lehmann - Heinrich (Demel 26), Reuter, Madouni, Dede - Ricken, Frings, Ewerthon (Amoroso 65), Kehl, Leandro (Reina 81) - Koller.

**GROUP A – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arsenal | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 10 |
| B Dortmund | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 10 |
| Auxerre | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 7 |
| PSV Eindhoven | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 6 |

### Group B

**November 12**

**Basle (Swi) 3** (Rossi 2, Gimenez 22, Atouba 29)
**Liverpool (Eng) 3** (Murphy 61, Smicer 64, Owen 85)
**HT:** 3-0. **Att:** 29,534. **Ref:** Colombo (Fra)
**Basle:** Zuberbuhler - Haas, M Yakin, Zwyssig, Atouba - Ergic, Cantaluppi, Esposito - H Yakin (Koumantarakis 90) - Gimenez (Barberis 66), Rossi (Tum 76).
**Liverpool:** Dudek - Carragher (Diouf 79), Traore, Hyypia, Riise - Murphy, Gerrard (Diao 46), Hamann, Heskey (Baros 61) - Smicer, Owen.

**Valencia (Spa) 3** (J Sanchez 38, 46, Fabio Aurelio 78)
**Moscow Spartak (Rus) 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Kasnaferis (Gre)
**Valencia:** Palop - Garrido, Marchena, Djukic, Fabio Aurelio - Angulo, De los Santos (D Sanchez 87), Kily Gonzalez - J Sanchez (Navarro 88), Salva (Albiol 71), Mista.
**Spartak:** Levytskyi - Mitreski (Ogunsanya 77), Moises, Abramidze, Kovtun - Bezrodny (Marcelo 46), Beschastnykh, Koudriashov (Sonin 62) - Kalinichenko - Pavlenko, Danishevski.

**GROUP B – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Valencia | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 17 | 4 | 16 |
| Basle | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 12 | 12 | 9 |
| Liverpool | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 8 | 8 |
| Moscow Spartak | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 18 | 0 |

### Group C

**November 12**

**Genk (Bel) 1** (Sonck 86)
**Real Madrid (Spa) 1** (Tote 21)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 22,500. **Ref:** Granat (Pol)
**Genk:** Moons - Tomasic, Seyfo, Zokora, Roumani - Beslija, Thijs, Skoko, Ingrao (Suzuki 60) - Sonck, Vandenbergh (Chatelle 69).
**Real Madrid:** Cesar - Minambres, Hierro (Ivan Helguera 30), Pavon, Roberto Carlos - Celades, Flavio Conceicao - Figo (McManaman 67), Guti, Tote - Morientes (Solari 77).

**Roma (Ita) 1** (Delvecchio 40)
**AEK Athens (Gre) 1** (Centeno 90)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 32,734. **Ref:** Bre (Fra)
**Roma:** Antonioli - Zebina, Samuel, Panucci - Cafu (Bombardini 90), Tommasi, Emerson, Lima (Guigou 81) - Cassano (Cufre 65), Montella, Delvecchio.
**AEK:** Chiotis - Borbokis, Wright, Kapsis (Kostenoglou 46), Georgatos - Lakis (Tsartas 61), Centeno, Katsouranis, Zagorakis - Nikolaidis, Nalitzis (Ivic 46).

**GROUP C – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Real Madrid | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 15 | 7 | 9 |
| Roma | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 9 |
| AEK Athens | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 6 |
| Genk | 6 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 4 |

### Group D

**November 12**

**Ajax (Hol) 1** (Van der Vaart 90)
**Internazionale (Ita) 2** (Crespo 50, 52)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 50,272. **Ref:** Meier (Swi)
**Ajax:** Didulica - Trabelsi, Bergdolmo, De Jong, Van Damme (Witschge 58) - Pienaar (Wamberto 58), Galasek (Yakubu 71), Maxwell - Van der Meyde, Van der Vaart, Hossam.
**Inter:** Toldo - J Zanetti, Cordoba, Materazzi, Coco - Sergio Conceicao (Adani 72), Di Biagio, Almeyda, Morfeo (Emre 90) - Crespo (Recoba 65), Vieri.

**Rosenborg (Nor) 1** (Brattbakk 69)
**Lyon (Fra) 1** (Govou 84)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 21,008. **Ref:** Dallas (Sco)
**Rosenborg:** Arason - Strand, Basma, Hoftun, Saarinen - F Johnsen, Skammelsrud, Berg - Enerly (Ludvigsen 79), Karadas, Brattbakk.
**Lyon:** Coupet - Muller, Cacapa, Edmilson, Brechet - Dhorasoo (Delmotte 72), Violeau (Juninho 66), Diarra - Carriere (Luyindula 72) - Anderson, Govou.

**GROUP D – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Internazionale | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 8 | 11 |
| Ajax | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 8 |
| Lyon | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 9 | 8 |
| Rosenborg | 6 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 12 | 4 |

*Ajax finished second on better head-to-head record*

### Group E

**November 13**

**Kyiv Dynamo (Ukr) 1** (Shatskikh 50)
**Juventus (Ita) 2** (Salas 53, Zalayeta 61)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 84,000. **Ref:** Larsen (Den)
**Dynamo:** Reva - Ghioane - Bodnar, Dmytrulin, Nesmachnyi - Khatskevich (Leko 59), Gavrancic, Husin - Diogo Rincon (Cernat 67), Shatskikh, Bialkevich.
**Juventus:** Chimenti - Birindelli, Fresi, Iuliano, Pessotto - Zambrotta, Conte (Paro 27), Baiocco - Olivera (Davids 76) - Salas (Cassani 90), Zalayeta.

**Feyenoord (Hol) 2** (Bombarda 65, Lurling 71)
**Newcastle United (Eng) 3** (Bellamy 45, 90, Hugo Viana 49)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Wack (Ger)
**Feyenoord:** Lodewijks - Gyan, Van Wonderen, Paauwe, Rzasa - Song (Bombarda 52), Bosvelt, Emerton, Lurling - Buffel, Kalou.
**Newcastle:** Given - Griffin, O'Brien, Dabizas, Hughes - Jenas, Dyer, Speed, Hugo Viana (Bernard 83) - Bellamy, Shearer.

**GROUP E – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Juventus | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 3 | 13 |
| Newcastle | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 9 |
| Kyiv Dynamo | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 7 |
| Feyenoord | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 5 |

### Group F

**November 13**

**Manchester United (Eng) 2** (Veron 42, Van Nistelrooy 69)
**Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 66,185. **Ref:** Hrinak (Slk)
**Man Utd:** Ricardo - O'Shea, Ferdinand, Blanc (G Neville 77), Silvestre - Beckham (Solskjaer 78), Veron, Fortune, Giggs (Chadwick 81) - Scholes, Van Nistelrooy.
**Leverkusen:** Butt - Sebescen, Ramelow, Kleine, Zivkovic - Balitsch (Preuss 81) - Bierofka (Dogan 78), Simak, Babic - Berbatov (Franca 62), Brdaric.

**Olympiakos (Gre) 3** (Alexandris 37, Niniadis 51, Antzas 79)
**Maccabi Haifa (Isr) 3** (Badir 9, Aiyegbeni 10, Katan 41)
**HT:** 1-3. **Att:** 13,000. **Ref:** Temmink (Hol)
**Olympiakos:** Eleftheropoulos - Giannakopoulos, Edu Dracena, Patsatzoglou, Venetidis - Antzas - Karembeu, Zetterberg (Niniadis 46), Djordjevic - Giovanni (Ofori-Quaye 71), Alexandris.
**Maccabi:** Awat - Zano, Harazi, Benado, Keisi - Pralija (Almoshnino 79), Ejiofor, Badir - Rosso - Katan (Zandberg 68), Aiyegbeni.

**GROUP F – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Manchester Utd | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 16 | 8 | 15 |
| Bayer Leverkusen | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 9 | 11 | 9 |
| Maccabi Haifa | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 12 | 12 | 7 |
| Olympiakos | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 11 | 17 | 4 |

### Group G

**November 13**

**Bayern Munich (Ger) 3** (N Kovac 6, Warmuz og 19, Feulner 87)
**Lens (Fra) 3** (Fink og 20, Bakari 54, Blanchard 90)
**HT:** 2-1. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Allaerts (Blg)
**Bayern:** Wessels - Salihamidzic, R Kovac, Linke, Lizarazu - N Kovac, Fink - Feulner (Lahm 90), Scholl (Schweinsteiger 76), Zickler - Pizarro (Elber 46).
**Lens:** Warmuz - Coulibaly, Song, Bak, Rool (Keita 69) - Coridon (Diagne-Faye 29), Blanchard, Sibierski - Utaka, Moreira - Bakari (Thomert 76).

**Milan (Ita) 1** (Tomasson 34)
**Deportivo La Coruna (Spa) 2** (Diego Tristan 58, Makaay 70)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 60,262. **Ref:** Riley (Eng)
**Milan:** Abbiati - Helveg, Simic, Maldini, Kaladze (Aubameyang 85) - Dalla Bona, Pirlo, Serginho - Rui Costa (Inzaghi 75) - Tomasson, Shevchenko.
**Deportivo:** Juanmi - Scaloni, Hector, Romero, Capdevila - Sergio, Mauro Silva, Fran (Acuna 65) - Makaay (Duscher 78), Diego Tristan, Luque (Amavisca 56).

**GROUP G – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Milan | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 12 | 7 | 12 |
| Dep La Coruna | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 11 | 12 | 12 |
| Lens | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 11 | 8 |
| Bayern Munich | 6 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 13 | 2 |

### Group H

**November 13**

**Barcelona (Spa) 3** (Dani Garcia 10, Gerard 44, Geovanni 56)
**Galatasaray (Tur) 1** (Cihan 20)
**HT:** 2-1. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Van Egmond (Hol)
**Barcelona:** Enke - Reiziger, Puyol (Dani Tortolero 61), De Boer (Oleguer 86), Fernando - Mendieta, Gerard, Motta - Saviola, Dani Garcia, Geovanni (Kluivert 79).
**Galatasaray:** Mondragon - Sarr, Bulent Korkmaz, Almaguer, Hakan Unsal - Cihan (Suat 46), Joao Batista (Ayhan 61), Ergun, Hasan Sas - Fabio Pinto, Baljic (Christian 75).

**Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus) 2** (Julio Cesar 44, Loskov 90)
**Club Brugge (Blg) 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Sars (Fra)
**Lokomotiv:** Ovchinnikov - Nizhegorodov, Ignashevich, Sennikov - Pachinin, Loskov, Lekgetho - Evseev, Maminov - Julio Cesar (Adamu 90), Buznikin (Obiorah 66).
**Brugge:** Verlinden - De Cock, Maertens, Clement, Van der Heyden - Englebert, Simons, Stoica (Ceh 84) - Martens, Mendoza (Lesnjak 72) - Verheyen.

**GROUP H – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barcelona | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 4 | 18 |
| Lokomotiv M | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 7 |
| Club Brugge | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 5 |
| Galatasaray | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 4 |

*Top two from each group qualified for second group phase; third-placed sides entered UEFA Cup at 3rd round stage*

## 2nd group phase

### Group A

**November 27**

**Bayer Leverkusen 1** (Berbatov 39)
**Barcelona 2** (Saviola 48, Overmars 88)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 22,500. **Ref:** Vassaras (Gre)
**Leverkusen:** Butt - Zivkovic, Ramelow, Lucio, Placente - Balitsch - Schneider, Basturk, Babic (Bierofka 66) - Berbatov (Simak 83), Brdaric (Neuville 55).
**Barcelona:** Bonano - Puyol, Reiziger, Cocu, Fernando - Rochemback, Gabri (Riquelme 46) - Mendieta (Saviola 46), Xavi, Motta (Overmars 75) - Kluivert.

**Newcastle United 1** (Solano 72)
**Internazionale 4** (Morfeo 2, Almeyda 35, Crespo 45, Recoba 81)
**HT:** 0-3. **Att:** 50,108. **Ref:** Bre (Fra)
**Newcastle:** Given - Griffin, O'Brien, Dabizas, Hughes (Caldwell 86) - Solano, Dyer, Speed, Hugo Viana (Robert 46) - Bellamy, Shearer. *Sent off: Bellamy 5min.*
**Inter:** Toldo - J Zanetti, Materazzi (Cordoba 15), Cannavaro, Pasquale - Okan (Dalmat 66), Emre, Almeyda, Morfeo - Crespo (Recoba 81), Vieri.

**GROUP A**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Internazionale | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| Barcelona | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Bayer Leverkusen | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Newcastle | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 |

**Tue, December 10**
Barcelona v Newcastle United
Internazionale v Bayer Leverkusen

**Tue, February 18**
Barcelona v Internazionale
Bayer Leverkusen v Newcastle United

**Wed, February 26**
Internazionale v Barcelona
Newcastle United v Bayer Leverkusen

**Tue, March 11**
Barcelona v Bayer Leverkusen
Internazionale v Newcastle United

**Wed, March 19**
Bayer Leverkusen v Internazionale
Newcastle United v Barcelona

### Group B

**November 27**

**Roma 1** (Cassano 4)
**Arsenal 3** (Henry 6, 70, 75)
**HT:** 1-1. **Att:** 49,860. **Ref:** Michel (Slk)
**Roma:** Antonioli - Panucci, Zebina, Samuel, Candela - Cafu, Emerson, Lima (Batistuta 73), Delvecchio (Guigou 57) - Cassano (Montella 65), Totti.
**Arsenal:** Shaaban - Luzhnyi, Campbell, Cygan, Cole - Ljungberg (Edu 90), Vieira, Gilberto Silva, Pires (Van Bronckhorst 79) - Henry, Wiltord (Keown 85).

**Valencia 1** (Angulo 90)
**Ajax 1** (Ibrahimovic 88)
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Veissiere (Fra)
**Valencia:** Canizares - Curro Torres, Ayala, Pellegrino, Carboni (Fabio Aurelio 74) - Angulo, Albelda (De los Santos 84), Baraja, Vicente - Mista (J Sanchez 67), Carew.
**Ajax:** Didulica - Trabelsi, Bergdolmo, Chivu, Maxwell - Pienaar (De Jong 71), Galasek, Van der Vaart - Van der Meyde, Litmanen (Ibrahimovic 59), Hossam (Boukhari 85).

**GROUP B**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arsenal | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Ajax | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Valencia | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Roma | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 |

**Tue, December 10**
Ajax v Roma
Arsenal v Valencia

**Tue, February 18**
Arsenal v Ajax
Roma v Valencia

**Wed, February 26**
Ajax v Arsenal
Valencia v Roma

**Tue, March 11**
Ajax v Valencia
Arsenal v Roma

**Wed, March 19**
Roma v Ajax
Valencia v Arsenal

### Group C

**November 26**

**Lokomotiv Moscow 1** (Ignashevich 31)
**Borussia Dortmund 2** (Frings 33, Koller 43)
**HT:** 1-2. **Att:** 17,000. **Ref:** Temmink (Hol)
**Lokomotiv:** Ovchinnikov - Nizhegorodov, Pachinin, Sennikov - Evseev, Ignashevich, Lekgetho - Loskov, Maminov (Obradovic 46) - Pimenov (Adamu 74), Obiorah (Buznikin 65).
**Dortmund:** Lehmann - Worns, Reuter, Metzelder - Heinrich, Frings, Kehl (Madouni 89), Dede - Rosicky (Reina 90) - Koller, Ewerthon (Ricken 82).

**Milan 1** (Shevchenko 40)
**Real Madrid 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 75,777. **Ref:** Meier (Swi)
**Milan:** Dida - Simic (Chamot 89), Costacurta, Maldini, Kaladze - Gattuso, Ambrosini, Seedorf - Rui Costa (Serginho 76), Rivaldo - Shevchenko (Tomasson 82).
**Real Madrid:** Casillas - Michel Salgado, Ivan Helguera, Pavon, Roberto Carlos - Celades, Cambiasso (Solari 76) - Figo, Raul, Zidane - Morientes (Portillo 61).

**GROUP C**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B Dortmund | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Milan | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Lokomotiv M | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Real Madrid | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

**Wed, December 11**
Borussia Dortmund v Milan
Real Madrid v Lokomotiv Moscow

**Wed, February 19**
Milan v Lokomotiv Moscow
Real Madrid v Borussia Dortmund

**Tue, February 25**
Borussia Dortmund v Real Madrid
Lokomotiv Moscow v Milan

**Wed, March 12**
Borussia Dortmund v Lokomotiv Moscow
Real Madrid v Milan

**Tue, March 18**
Lokomotiv Moscow v Real Madrid
Milan v Borussia Dortmund

### Group D

**November 26**

**Basle 1** (Gimenez 1)
**Manchester United 3** (Van Nistelrooy 62, 63, Solskjaer 68)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 29,500. **Ref:** Ivanov (Rus)
**Basle:** Zuberbuhler - Haas, M Yakin, Zwyssig, Atouba - Ergic (Barberis 84), Cantaluppi, Chipperfield (Tum 73) - H Yakin - Gimenez, Rossi (Duruz 84).
**Man Utd:** Barthez - P Neville, Brown (May 90), O'Shea, Silvestre - Solskjaer (Chadwick 90), Fortune, Veron, Giggs - Scholes, Van Nistelrooy (Forlan 73).

**Deportivo La Coruna 2** (Diego Tristan 9, Makaay 11)
**Juventus 2** (Birindelli 38, Nedved 57)
**HT:** 2-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Fandel (Ger)
**Deportivo:** Juanmi - Scaloni, Cesar, Romero, Capdevila - Sergio, Mauro Silva, Duscher, Fran (Amavisca 77) - Makaay (Victor 62), Diego Tristan (Luque 64).
**Juventus:** Buffon - Thuram, Iuliano, Montero, Birindelli - Camoranesi (Zambrotta 75), Tacchinardi, Davids - Nedved - Di Vaio (Zalayeta 75), Del Piero.

**GROUP D**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Manchester Utd | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Juventus | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Dep La Coruna | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Basle | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 |

**Wed, December 11**
Juventus v Basle
Manchester United v Deportivo La Coruna

**Wed, February 19**
Basle v Deportivo La Coruna
Manchester United v Juventus

**Tue, February 25**
Deportivo La Coruna v Basle
Juventus v Manchester United

**Wed, March 12**
Juventus v Deportivo La Coruna
Manchester United v Basle

**Tue, March 18**
Basle v Juventus
Deportivo La Coruna v Manchester United

# UEFA CUP

## 2nd rnd, 2nd legs

**November 12**

**Amica Wronki (Pol) 1** (Gesior 16)
**Malaga (Spa) 2** (Dario Silva 20, Musampa 72)
**HT:** 1-1. **Ref:** Brugger (Aut)
*Malaga 4-2 on agg*

**Bordeaux (Fra) 2** (Feindouno 36, 50)
**Djurgardens (Swe) 1** (Elmander 73)
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Koren (Isr)
*Bordeaux 3-1 on agg*

**Stuttgart (Ger) 2** (Amanatidis 63, Fernando Meira pen 90)
**Ferencvaros (Hun) 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Kapitanis (Cyp)
*Sent off: Lipcsei (Ferencvaros) 90min*
*Stuttgart 2-0 on agg*

**November 14**

**Anorthosis Famagusta (Cyp) 0**
**Boavista (Por) 1** (E Silva pen 90)
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Baskakov (Rus)
*Sent off: Ico (Boavista) 72min*
*Boavista 3-1 on agg*

**Besiktas (Tur) 1** (Ilhan 7)
**Alaves (Spa) 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Garibian (Fra)
*Sent off: Ilhan (Besiktas) 83min; Tellez (Alaves) 83min*
*Besiktas 2-1 on agg*

**Blackburn Rovers (Eng) 0**
**Celtic (Sco) 2** (Larsson 15, Sutton 67)
**HT:** 0-1. **Ref:** Bolognino (Ita)
*Celtic 3-0 on agg*

**Denizlispor (Tur) 2** (Mustafa 23, pen 54)
**Sparta Prague (Cze) 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Weiner (Ger)
*Denizlispor 2-1 on agg*

**Fulham (Eng) 2** (Malbranque 89, Boa Morte 90)
**Dinamo Zagreb (Cro) 1** (Olic 51)
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Duhamel (Fra)
*Fulham 5-1 on agg*

**Grasshopper (Swi) 1** (Tararache 45)
**PAOK Salonika (Gre) 1** (Markos 90)
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Hansson (Swe)
*PAOK 3-2 on agg*

**Hapoel Tel Aviv (Isr) 1** (Abuksis 2)
**Leeds United (Eng) 4** (Smith 30, 54, 63, 83)
**HT:** 1-1. **Ref:** Stuchlik (Aut)
*Played in Florence, Italy*
*Sent off: Abuksis (Hapoel) 78min*
*Leeds 5-1 on agg*

**Levski Sofia (Bul) 1** (Simonovic 6)
**Sturm Graz (Aut) 0**
*Aet.* **HT:** 1-0. **90mins:** 1-0. **Ref:** Ceferin (Sln)
*Sent off: Rojas (Sturm) 114min*
*Agg 1-1. Sturm 8-7 on pens*

**Midtjylland (Den) 0**
**Anderlecht (Blg) 3** (Seol 18, Jestrovic 83, Dindane 89)
**HT:** 0-1. **Ref:** Treossi (Ita)
*Anderlecht 6-1 on agg*

**Panathinaikos (Gre) 4** (Limberopoulos 24, Goumas 31, Michaelsen 42, Warzycha 89)
**Fenerbahce (Tur) 1** (Tuncay 37)
**HT:** 3-1. **Ref:** Carmona Mendez (Spa)
*Panathinaikos 5-2 on agg*

**Paris Saint-Germain (Fra) 1** (L Leroy 56)
**National Bucharest (Rom) 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Mikulski (Pol)
*PSG 3-0 on agg*

**FC Porto (Por) 2** (Helder Postiga 29, Derlei 86)
**Austria Wien (Aut) 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Gilewski (Pol)
*Porto 3-0 on agg*

**Real Betis (Spa) 3** (Gaston Casas 45, Joaquin pen 56, Joao Tomas 86)
**Viktoria Zizkov (Cze) 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Bozinovski (Mac)
*Betis 4-0 on agg*

**Red Star Belgrade (Yug) 1** (Boskovic 70)
**Lazio (Ita) 1** (Chiesa 77)
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Rodriguez Santiago (Spa)
*Lazio 2-1 on agg*

**Schalke (Ger) 0**
**Legia Warsaw (Pol) 0**
**Ref:** D'Urso (Eng)
*Schalke 3-2 on agg*

**Slavia Prague (Cze) 5** (Vachousek 11, 41, Petrous pen 87, Gedeon 94, Adauto 110)
**Partizan Belgrade (Yug) 1** (Ivic 90)
*Aet.* **HT:** 2-0. **90mins:** 3-1. **Ref:** Douros (Gre)
*Sent off: Bajic (Partizan) 68min*
*Slavia 6-4 on agg*

**Slovan Liberec (Cze) 1** (Gyan 88)
**Ipswich (Eng) 0**
*Aet.* **HT:** 0-0. **90mins:** 1-0. **Ref:** Trivkovic (Cro)
*Agg 1-1. Liberec 4-2 on pens*

**Viking Stavanger (Nor) 1** (Sigurdsson 85)
**Celta Vigo (Spa) 1** (Mostovoi 76)
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Godulyan (Ukr)
*Celta 4-1 on agg*

**Werder Bremen (Ger) 3** (Baumann 24, Krstajic 50, Haristeas 75)
**Vitesse Arnhem (Hol) 3** (Levchenko pen 51, Claessens 78, Mbamba 90)
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Irvine (NI)
*Sent off: Rankovic (Vitesse) 69min*
*Vitesse 5-4 on agg*

**Wisla Krakow (Pol) 4** (Kosowski 70, Zurawski 80, 94, Dubicki 107)
**Parma (Ita) 1** (Adriano 6)
*Aet.* **HT:** 0-1. **90mins:** 2-1. **Ref:** Delevic (Yug)
*Wisla 5-3 on agg*

## 3rd rnd, 1st legs

**November 26**

**Hertha Berlin 2** (Beinlich 28, Sava og 68)
**Fulham 1** (Marlet 53)
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Van Egmond (Hol)

**Paris Saint-Germain 2** (Nyarko 16, Fiorese 45)
**Boavista 1** (Luiz Claudio 75)
**HT:** 2-0. **Ref:** De Santis (Ita)
*Sent off: Dehu (PSG) 32min*

**November 28**

**AEK Athens (Gre) 4** (Georgatos 13, Nikolaidis 23, Petkov 30, Zagorakis 35)
**Maccabi Haifa (Isr) 0**
**HT:** 4-0. **Ref:** Gomes Costa (Por)

**Besiktas 3** (Pancu 30, Ronaldo Guiaro 71, Nouma 82)
**Kyiv Dynamo (Ukr) 1** (Diogo Rincon 29)
**HT:** 1-1. **Ref:** Hamer (Lux)

**Bordeaux 0**
**Anderlecht 2** (Jestrovic 9, Hasi 90)
**HT:** 0-1. **Ref:** Plautz (Aut)

**Celtic 1** (Larsson 52)
**Celta Vigo 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Colombo (Fra)

**Club Brugge (Blg) 1** (Van der Heyden 42)
**Stuttgart 2** (Balakov 72, Kuranyi 89)
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Messina (Ita)
*Sent off: Maertens (Brugge) 71min*

**Denizlispor 0**
**Lyon (Fra) 0**
**Ref:** Pedersen (Nor)

**Malaga 0**
**Leeds United 0**
**Ref:** Trentalange (Ita)

**PAOK Salonika 1** (Georgiadis 51)
**Slavia Prague 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Ref:** Sars (Fra)

**FC Porto 3** (Helder Postiga 36, Warmuz og 45, Jankauskas 87)
**Lens (Fra) 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Ref:** Poll (Eng)

**Real Betis 1** (Alfonso pen 10)
**Auxerre (Fra) 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Fleischer (Ger)

**Slovan Liberec 2** (Zboncak 44, Slovak pen 84)
**Panathinaikos 2** (Basinas pen 13, Olisadebe 52)
**HT:** 1-1. **Ref:** Riley (Eng)

**Sturm Graz 1** (Amoah 44)
**Lazio 3** (Chiesa 46, Inzaghi 56, 87)
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Granat (Pol)

**Vitesse Arnhem 0**
**Liverpool (Eng) 1** (Owen 26)
**HT:** 0-1. **Ref:** Mejuto Gonzalez (Spa)

**Wisla Krakow 1** (Poulsen og 38)
**Schalke 1** (Mpenza 81)
**HT:** 1-0. **Ref:** Kasnaferis (Gre)

## AUSTRIA

**Nov 9:** Austria Wien 2 Admira 1; Karnten 3 Bregenz 0; Grazer AK 2 SV Ried 0; Salzburg 3 Rapid Wien 1.
**Nov 10:** Pasching 2 Sturm Graz 0.
**Nov 16:** Bregenz 5 Salzburg 1; Rapid Wien 2 Pasching 1; Admira 0 Grazer AK 2.
**Nov 17:** SV Ried 1 Austria Wien 0; Sturm Graz 2 Karnten 1.
**Nov 23:** Karnten 0 Admira 0; Grazer AK 0 Rapid Wien 0; Pasching 1 Bregenz 1; Salzburg 5 SV Ried 2.
**Nov 24:** Austria Wien 1 Sturm Graz 2.
**Nov 30:** Bregenz 3 Rapid Wien 6; SV Ried 5 Karnten 0; Admira 1 Salzburg 1.
**Dec 1:** Austria Wien 2 Grazer AK 1; Sturm Graz 1 Pasching 1.

**AUSTRIA**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Austria Wien | 21 | 14 | 4 | 3 | 43 | 14 | 46 |
| Pasching | 21 | 9 | 6 | 6 | 29 | 22 | 33 |
| Sturm Graz | 21 | 10 | 3 | 8 | 31 | 33 | 33 |
| SV Ried | 21 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 30 | 24 | 30 |
| Rapid Wien | 21 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 30 | 25 | 30 |
| Grazer AK | 21 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 24 | 26 | 26 |
| Salzburg | 21 | 6 | 6 | 9 | 24 | 35 | 24 |
| Karnten | 21 | 6 | 5 | 10 | 25 | 32 | 23 |
| Bregenz | 21 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 29 | 35 | 21 |
| Admira | 21 | 4 | 7 | 10 | 19 | 38 | 19 |

## BELARUS

**BELARUS - FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BATE Borisov | 26 | 18 | 2 | 6 | 51 | 20 | 56 |
| Neman | 26 | 17 | 5 | 4 | 47 | 20 | 56 |
| Shakhtyor | 26 | 15 | 6 | 5 | 41 | 23 | 51 |
| Torpedo Minsk | 26 | 15 | 6 | 5 | 30 | 16 | 51 |
| Torpedo Zhodino | 26 | 13 | 4 | 9 | 38 | 27 | 43 |
| FC Gomel | 26 | 13 | 4 | 9 | 46 | 33 | 43 |
| Dinamo Minsk | 26 | 12 | 6 | 8 | 44 | 28 | 42 |
| Belshina* | 26 | 12 | 4 | 10 | 44 | 38 | 37 |
| Dnepr-Transmash | 26 | 10 | 6 | 10 | 38 | 37 | 36 |
| Dinamo Brest | 26 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 25 | 26 | 32 |
| Slavia Mozyr | 26 | 6 | 6 | 14 | 38 | 61 | 24 |
| Zvezda VA BDU | 26 | 4 | 6 | 16 | 28 | 48 | 18 |
| Molodechno | 26 | 3 | 3 | 20 | 23 | 59 | 12 |
| Lokomotiv 96 | 26 | 3 | 0 | 23 | 20 | 77 | 9 |

**3pts deducted for non-payment of transfer fees*

### Championship play-off

*Nov 8 - Minsk*
**BATE Borisov 1** (Tarasenko 102)
**Neman 0**
*Aet.* **HT:** 0-0. **90mins:** 0-0. **Att:** 7,000

## BELGIUM

### Friday, November 8

**St Truiden 3** (Vrancken 56, Mbonabucya 75, Van Geel 84)
**Anderlecht 1** (Tihinen 45) Att: 11,000

### Saturday, November 9

**Club Brugge 4** (Stoica 12, Verheyen 34, De Cock 54, Simons pen 71)
**Genk 0** Att: 21,224

**Germinal Beerschot 0**
**Mouscron 2** (Mpenza 64, 68) Att: 7,500

**La Louviere 0**
**Gent 1** (Vanic pen 40) Att: 4,600

**Lokeren 4** (Kimoto 45, De Beule 47, 75, Gretarsson pen 69)
**Charleroi 1** (Eduardo 16) Att: 6,000

**Lommel 0**
**Royal Antwerp 2** (Goots 69, 78) Att: 6,000

**Westerlo 2** (Delen 55, Brogno 70)
**Mechelen 0** Att: 6,000

### Sunday, November 10

**Beveren 1** (Kaiper 85)
**Standard 3** (Arst 15, 43, Lukunku 61) Att: 5,000

**Lierse 1** (Kone 50)
**Mons 1** (Roussel 36) Att: 8,000

### Wednesday, November 20

**St Truiden 2** (Mbonabucya 65, Hayen 82)
**Mouscron 2** (De Vleeschauwer 26, Claeys 90) Att: 10,000

### Friday, November 22

**Anderlecht 2** (De Bilde 54, Jestrovic 56)
**Lokeren 0** Att: 23,399

### Saturday, November 23

**Charleroi 1** (Dufer 18)
**Germinal Beerschot 6** (Quansah 22, 56, 73, Obodai 25, Snelders 65, Huysmans 76) Att: 8,777

**Club Brugge 3** (Martens 35, Simons 55, Mendoza 59)
**Lierse 0** Att: 20,883

**Genk 9** (Vandenbergh 13, 73, 81, Sonck 28, 33, 34, 47, pen 76, 82)
**Mechelen 0** Att: 23,966

**Mons 3** (Roussel 34, 70, 85)
**St Truiden 0** Att: 6,000

**Royal Antwerp 2** (Sergeant 20, Goots 21)
**La Louviere 1** (Ishiaku 25) Att: 6,500

**Standard 3** (Arst 15, 87, Da Silva Moreira 56)
**Westerlo 0** Att: 12,500

### Sunday, November 24

**Gent 2** (Kraouche 37, 45)
**Beveren 1** (Theunis 76) Att: 7,000

**Mouscron 2** (Zewlakow 45, 57)
**Lommel 0** Att: 6,000

### Saturday, November 30

**Beveren 3** (Kaiper 17, 45, Toure 88)
**Royal Antwerp 1** (Boka og 52) Att: 7,000

**La Louviere 2** (Magro 23, 71)
**Mouscron 0** Att: 4,500

**Lokeren 4** (De Beule 38, 68, 77, Vidarsson 80)
**Mons 0** Att: 6,000

**Mechelen 1** (Kubik 61)
**Standard 1** (Da Silva Moreira 50) Att: 6,660

**Westerlo 1** (Delen 72)
**Gent 0** Att: 5,000

### Sunday, December 1

**Germinal Beerschot 1** (Quansah 40)
**Anderlecht 2** (Hendrikx 34, Jestrovic 64) Att: 9,500

**Lierse 1** (Huysegems 69)
**Genk 1** (Dagano 90) Att: 11,000

**Lommel 1** (Valenta 35)
**Charleroi 1** (Eduardo 75) Att: 4,000

**St Truiden 5** (Voets 17, Kalisa 47, Boffin pen 58, Mbonabucya 61, Buvens 87)
**Club Brugge 2** (Caers og 2, Englebert 90) Att: 11,000

### Wednesday, December 4

**Anderlecht 2** (Vanderhaeghe 61, Kolar 67)
**Lommel 1** (Tankary 34)

**Club Brugge 5** (Ceh 40, 89, Martens 62, Mendoza 79, Bangoura og 84)
**Lokeren 0**

**BELGIUM**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Club Brugge | 14 | 12 | 1 | 1 | 40 | 12 | 37 |
| Lokeren | 15 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 32 | 23 | 30 |
| Anderlecht | 14 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 31 | 18 | 29 |
| St Truiden | 14 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 41 | 23 | 28 |
| Lierse | 14 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 22 | 13 | 28 |
| Genk | 14 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 37 | 19 | 26 |
| Mons | 14 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 23 | 18 | 20 |
| Mouscron | 14 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 26 | 29 | 19 |
| Royal Antwerp | 14 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 23 | 27 | 18 |
| Germinal B | 14 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 28 | 29 | 17 |
| Gent | 14 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 21 | 24 | 17 |
| La Louviere | 14 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 15 | 14 | 16 |
| Standard | 14 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 19 | 22 | 16 |
| Beveren | 14 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 15 | 27 | 13 |
| Westerlo | 14 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 10 | 28 | 13 |
| Lommel | 15 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 14 | 26 | 12 |
| Mechelen | 14 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 14 | 36 | 10 |
| Charleroi | 14 | 0 | 5 | 9 | 15 | 38 | 5 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**

| | |
|---|---|
| 14 | Wesley Sonck (Genk) |
| 10 | Patrick Goots (Royal Antwerp) |
| 10 | Stein Huysegems (Lierse) |
| 10 | Desire Mbonabucya (St Truiden) |

## BULGARIA

**Nov 8:** Dobrudzha 0 Levski 5.
**Nov 9:** Rilski Sportist 0 Spartak Varna 0; Lokomotiv Sofia 0 Naftex 2; Chernomorets 2 Slavia 4; Cherno More 2 Marek 0; CSKA 1 Lovech 0.
**Nov 10:** Lokomotiv Plovdiv 5 Botev 3.
**Nov 23:** Slavia 1 Cherno More 0; Spartak Varna 2 Lokomotiv Sofia 1; Lovech 1 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 1; Levski 3 Chernomorets 1; Botev 5 Dobrudzha 1.
**Nov 24:** Naftex 0 CSKA 1; Marek 3 Rilski Sportist 1.

**BULGARIA**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CSKA | 13 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 35 | 5 | 39 |
| Levski | 13 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 31 | 12 | 31 |
| Lovech | 13 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 22 | 6 | 27 |
| Lok Plovdiv | 13 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 30 | 16 | 26 |
| Slavia | 13 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 30 | 16 | 25 |
| Cherno More | 13 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 15 | 11 | 21 |
| Naftex | 13 | 7 | 0 | 6 | 17 | 18 | 21 |
| Marek | 13 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 17 | 19 | 16 |
| Chernomorets | 13 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 18 | 21 | 16 |
| Spartak Varna | 13 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 13 | 19 | 14 |
| Lok Sofia | 13 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 17 | 12 |
| Botev | 13 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 17 | 34 | 10 |
| Rilski Sportist | 13 | 0 | 3 | 10 | 8 | 28 | 3 |
| Dobrudzha | 13 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 7 | 48 | 1 |

## CROATIA

**Nov 9:** Osijek 1 Varteks 2; Zagreb 4 Rijeka 1; Hajduk 3 Sibenik 1; Zadar 1 Kamen Ingrad 1; Pomorac 0 Cibalia 0.
**Nov 10:** Slaven 1 Dinamo 3.
**Nov 16:** Slaven 4 Osijek 0; Cibalia 0 Zadar 0; Sibenik 3 Zagreb 0; Rijeka 0 Varteks 2.
**Nov 17:** Dinamo 2 Pomorac 1; Kamen Ingrad 1 Hajduk 1.
**Nov 23:** Osijek 1 Rijeka 1; Varteks 2 Sibenik 1; Zagreb 3 Kamen Ingrad 1; Hajduk 4 Cibalia 0; Pomorac 1 Slaven 1.
**Nov 24:** Zadar 1 Dinamo 3.
**Nov 30:** Pomorac 2 Osijek 2; Slaven 1 Zadar 2; Cibalia 2 Zagreb 1; Kamen Ingrad 0 Varteks 1; Sibenik 0 Rijeka 0.
**Dec 1:** Dinamo 2 Hajduk 1.

**CROATIA**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dinamo | 17 | 13 | 3 | 1 | 40 | 14 | 42 |
| Hajduk | 17 | 12 | 2 | 3 | 30 | 12 | 38 |
| Varteks | 17 | 12 | 0 | 5 | 31 | 16 | 36 |
| Cibalia | 17 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 23 | 20 | 28 |
| Kamen Ingrad | 17 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 17 | 17 | 26 |
| Slaven | 17 | 8 | 1 | 8 | 22 | 21 | 25 |
| Zagreb | 17 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 22 | 23 | 23 |
| Zadar | 17 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 15 | 29 | 15 |
| Rijeka | 17 | 4 | 2 | 11 | 19 | 25 | 14 |
| Osijek | 17 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 18 | 36 | 14 |
| Sibenik | 17 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 19 | 30 | 11 |
| Pomorac | 17 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 20 | 33 | 10 |

## CZECH REPUBLIC

**Nov 9:** Olomouc 0 Sparta 2.
**Nov 10:** Chmel Blsany 1 Synot 2; Hradec Kralove 3 Liberec 2; Zlin 2 Brno 1; Pribram 2 Ceske Budejovice 0; Zizkov 0 Slavia 4.
**Nov 11:** Bohemians 2 Teplice 3.
**Nov 16:** Teplice 1 Chmel Blsany 0.
**Nov 17:** Liberec 2 Pribram 0; Ceske Budejovice 2 Hradec Kralove 1; Synot 3 Bohemians 1; Ostrava 0 Zizkov 1; Sparta 0 Zlin 1; Slavia 1 Olomouc 0.
**Nov 18:** Brno 1 Jablonec 0.
**Nov 23:** Liberec 1 Sparta 2.
**Nov 24:** Chmel Blsany 2 Zlin 1; Synot 1 Teplice 1; Ostrava 2 Olomouc 1; Hradec Kralove 2 Pribram 2; Brno 0 Ceske Budejovice 0; Zizkov 3 Bohemians 2.
**Nov 25:** Slavia 1 Jablonec 1.
**Nov 28:** Jablonec 2 Ostrava 2.

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sparta | 15 | 11 | 3 | 1 | 26 | 5 | 36 |
| Slavia | 15 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 29 | 9 | 32 |
| Teplice | 15 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 22 | 18 | 28 |
| Liberec | 15 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 24 | 18 | 26 |
| Ostrava | 15 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 23 | 16 | 24 |
| Zizkov | 15 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 21 | 21 | 24 |
| Synot | 15 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 18 | 18 | 22 |
| Pribram | 15 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 14 | 14 | 19 |
| Ceske Budejovice | 15 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 20 | 27 | 19 |
| Brno | 15 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 17 | 18 | 18 |
| Chmel Blsany | 15 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 13 | 17 | 18 |
| Jablonec | 15 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 16 | 23 | 18 |
| Zlin | 15 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 15 | 23 | 16 |
| Olomouc | 15 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 12 | 18 | 11 |
| Hradec Kralove | 15 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 13 | 23 | 11 |
| Bohemians | 15 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 19 | 34 | 9 |

## DENMARK

**Nov 9:** Viborg 1 AaB 3.
**Nov 10:** Brondby 1 Esbjerg 1; AB 0 FC Copenhagen 0; Koge 4 Farum 2; OB 2 AGF 2; Silkeborg 1 Midtjylland 1.
**Nov 16:** Esbjerg 4 OB 4.
**Nov 17:** AaB 0 AB 4; Farum 3 Silkeborg 2; FC Copenhagen 1 Koge 0; AGF 2 Viborg 4; Midtjylland 1 Brondby 1.
**Nov 23:** Brondby 7 Farum 1.
**Nov 24:** AB 3 AGF 1; OB 1 Midtjylland 0; Silkeborg 3 Koge 4; Viborg 4 Esbjerg 1; AaB 1 FC Copenhagen 1.
**Nov 30:** Koge 0 Brondby 2.
**Dec 1:** Esbjerg 1 AB 1; Farum 2 OB 1; Midtjylland 3 Viborg 1; FC Copenhagen 3 Silkeborg 0; AGF 1 AaB 0.

**DENMARK**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FC Copenhagen | 18 | 11 | 5 | 2 | 30 | 16 | 38 |
| Brondby | 18 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 36 | 20 | 29 |
| Farum | 18 | 9 | 0 | 9 | 26 | 35 | 27 |
| AaB | 18 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 25 | 27 | 26 |
| Esbjerg | 18 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 37 | 36 | 25 |
| Midtjylland | 18 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 26 | 23 | 24 |
| AB | 18 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 23 | 20 | 23 |
| OB | 18 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 28 | 26 | 23 |
| AGF | 18 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 26 | 33 | 22 |
| Koge | 18 | 7 | 1 | 10 | 30 | 40 | 22 |
| Viborg | 18 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 31 | 35 | 21 |
| Silkeborg | 18 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 23 | 30 | 17 |

## ENGLAND

### Saturday, November 9

**Arsenal 1** (Wiltord 24)
**Newcastle 0** Att: 38,121

**Aston Villa 3** (Angel 20, Allback 66, Leonhardsen 83)
**Fulham 1** (Boa Morte 51) Att: 29,563

**Bolton 1** (Frandsen 89)
**West Brom 1** (Dobie 17) Att: 23,630

**Chelsea 3** (Gudjohnsen 3, 31, Zola 42)
**Birmingham 0** Att: 35,237

**Everton 1** (Radzinski 31)
**Charlton 0** Att: 37,621

**Manchester City 3** (Anelka 5, Goater 26, 50)
**Manchester Utd 1** (Solskjaer 8) Att: 34,649

**Middlesbrough 1** (Southgate 82)
**Liverpool 0** Att: 34,747

**Southampton 1** (Beattie pen 39)
**Blackburn 1** (Cole 90) Att: 30,059

### Sunday, November 10

**Sunderland 2** (Phillips 60, Flo 62)
**Tottenham 0** Att: 40,024

**West Ham 3** (Di Canio 21, pen 50, Sinclair 74)
**Leeds 4** (Barmby 11, Kewell 28, 41, Viduka 45) Att: 33,297

### Saturday, November 16

**Arsenal 3** (Henry 14, Ljungberg 55, Wiltord 71)
**Tottenham 0** Att: 38,152

**Chelsea 1** (Babayaro 47)
**Middlesbrough 0** Att: 39,064

**Manchester City 0**
**Charlton 1** (Bartlett 79) Att: 33,455

**Newcastle 2** (Ameobi 41, Hughes 54)
**Southampton 1** (Beattie 2) Att: 51,812

**West Brom 0**
**Aston Villa 0** Att: 27,091

### Sunday, November 17

**Birmingham 0**
**Fulham 0** Att: 26,164

**Blackburn 0**
**Everton 1** (Campbell 19) Att: 26,496

**Leeds 2** (Smith 4, Kewell 84)
**Bolton 4** (Pedersen 3, 90, N'Gotty 80, Ricketts pen 89) Att: 36,627

**Liverpool 0**
**Sunderland 0** Att: 43,074

**West Ham 1** (Defoe 86)
**Manchester Utd 1** (Van Nistelrooy 38) Att: 35,049

### Saturday, November 23

**Aston Villa 4** (Hendrie 29, Leonhardsen 59, Dublin 72, Vassell 80)
**West Ham 1** (Di Canio 70) Att: 33,279

**Bolton 1** (Pedersen 63)
**Chelsea 1** (Hasselbaink 90) Att: 25,476

**Everton 1** (Radzinski 35)
**West Brom 0** Att: 40,113

**Fulham 3** (Sava 5, 68, Davis 38)
**Liverpool 2** (Hamann 62, Babbel 86) Att: 18,144

**Manchester Utd 5** (Scholes 25, Van Nistelrooy 38, 45, 53, Solskjaer 55)
**Newcastle 3** (Bernard 35, Shearer 52, Bellamy 75) Att: 67,619

**Middlesbrough 3** (Ehiogu 53, Boksic 62, Geremi 84)
**Manchester City 1** (Anelka 68) Att: 31,510

**Southampton 3** (Beattie 45, pen 59, Delgado 67)
**Arsenal 2** (Bergkamp 36, Pires 80) Att: 31,797

**Sunderland 0**
**Birmingham 1** (Morrison 89) Att: 38,803

### Sunday, November 24

**Charlton 3** (Konchesky 59, Rufus 74, Euell 90)
**Blackburn 1** (Thompson 60) Att: 26,152

**Tottenham 2** (Sheringham 12, Keane 41)
**Leeds 0** Att: 35,718

### Saturday, November 30

**Arsenal 3** (Pires 18, Henry 49, pen 81)
**Aston Villa 1** (Hitzlsperger 64) Att: 38,090

**Birmingham 1** (Kenna 68)
**Tottenham 1** (Sheringham 55) Att: 29,505

**Blackburn 2** (Yorke 35, Brevett og 77)
**Fulham 1** (Marlet 60) Att: 21,096

**Chelsea 3** (Gallas 58, Desailly 84, Hasselbaink 89)
**Sunderland 0** Att: 38,946

**Manchester City 2** (Howey 25, Berkovic 56)
**Bolton 0** Att: 34,860

**West Brom 1** (Dichio 72)
**Middlesbrough 0** Att: 27,029

### Sunday, December 1

**Leeds 1** (Kewell 42)
**Charlton 2** (Lisbie 80, Parker 90) Att: 35,537

**Liverpool 1** (Hyypia 82)
**Manchester Utd 2** (Forlan 64, 67) Att: 44,250

**Newcastle 2** (Shearer 86, Bellamy 89)
**Everton 1** (Campbell 17) Att: 51,607

### Monday, December 2

**West Ham 0**
**Southampton 1** (Beattie 90) Att: 28,844

**ENGLAND**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arsenal | 16 | 11 | 2 | 3 | 36 | 17 | 35 |
| Liverpool | 16 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 27 | 15 | 31 |
| Chelsea | 16 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 28 | 13 | 30 |
| Man Utd | 16 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 25 | 17 | 29 |
| Everton | 16 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 19 | 17 | 29 |
| Newcastle | 15 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 25 | 23 | 25 |
| Middlesbrough | 16 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 19 | 13 | 24 |
| Tottenham | 16 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 20 | 22 | 24 |
| Blackburn | 16 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 22 | 19 | 23 |
| Southampton | 16 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 18 | 17 | 23 |
| Birmingham | 16 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 16 | 19 | 20 |
| Charlton | 16 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 16 | 20 | 20 |
| Man City | 16 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 17 | 23 | 20 |
| Fulham | 16 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 21 | 22 | 19 |
| Aston Villa | 16 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 15 | 16 | 19 |
| Leeds | 16 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 20 | 24 | 17 |
| West Brom | 16 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 11 | 22 | 15 |
| Sunderland | 16 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 8 | 20 | 14 |
| Bolton | 15 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 17 | 27 | 13 |
| West Ham | 16 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 15 | 29 | 12 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**

9 James Beattie (Southampton)
9 Thierry Henry (Arsenal)
9 Alan Shearer (Newcastle)
9 Gianfranco Zola (Chelsea)

## ESTONIA

**ESTONIA – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Flora Tallinn | 28 | 20 | 4 | 4 | 79 | 25 | 64 |
| Levadia Maardu | 28 | 18 | 8 | 2 | 70 | 25 | 62 |
| Tallinna VMK | 28 | 16 | 5 | 7 | 90 | 35 | 53 |
| Trans Narva | 28 | 14 | 5 | 9 | 54 | 49 | 47 |
| Tulevik Viljandi | 28 | 10 | 6 | 12 | 51 | 52 | 36 |
| Levadia Tallinn | 28 | 6 | 5 | 17 | 32 | 70 | 23 |
| Lootus | 28 | 5 | 6 | 17 | 24 | 67 | 21 |
| Levadia Parnu | 28 | 1 | 5 | 22 | 19 | 96 | 8 |

## FAROE ISLANDS

**FAROE ISLANDS – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| HB | 18 | 13 | 2 | 3 | 52 | 19 | 41 |
| NSI | 18 | 11 | 3 | 4 | 38 | 21 | 36 |
| KI | 18 | 10 | 3 | 5 | 45 | 25 | 33 |
| B36 | 18 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 55 | 27 | 32 |
| GI | 18 | 10 | 2 | 6 | 33 | 30 | 32 |
| B68 | 18 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 28 | 28 | 26 |
| VB | 18 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 18 | 24 | 22 |
| Skala | 18 | 3 | 4 | 11 | 23 | 41 | 13 |
| EB/Streymur | 18 | 3 | 3 | 12 | 19 | 42 | 12 |
| TB | 18 | 1 | 3 | 14 | 18 | 72 | 6 |

## FINLAND

**FINLAND: CHAMP'SHIP POOL – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| HJK Helsinki | 29 | 20 | 5 | 4 | 51 | 21 | 65 |
| MyPa | 29 | 17 | 9 | 3 | 57 | 25 | 60 |
| FC Haka | 29 | 15 | 7 | 7 | 51 | 30 | 52 |
| Allianssi* | 29 | 12 | 5 | 12 | 39 | 44 | 41 |
| Tampere Utd | 29 | 8 | 15 | 6 | 31 | 24 | 39 |
| Inter Turku | 29 | 9 | 9 | 11 | 33 | 29 | 36 |
| Jaro | 29 | 10 | 6 | 13 | 34 | 46 | 36 |
| Lahti | 29 | 9 | 6 | 14 | 25 | 44 | 33 |

**Formerly Atlantis*

### FINNISH CUP – Final

*Nov 9 - Finnair stadium, Helsinki*
**FC Haka 4** (Pasoja pen 45, Torkkeli 69, Ristila 75, Ylonen 83)
**Lahti 1** (Koskinen pen 67)
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 2,984. **Ref:** Kari
*Sent off: Marjamaa (Lahti) 45min*

## FRANCE

### Thursday, November 7

**Ajaccio 1** (Regragui 89)
**Auxerre 0** Att: 5,376

**Le Havre 1** (Le Tallec 60)
**Lyon 2** (Carriere 10, Cacapa 84) Att: 12,645

### Friday, November 8

**Nice 1** (Everson 24)
**Monaco 0** Att: 14,763

### Saturday, November 9

**Bordeaux 2** (Pauleta 31, 76)
**Rennes 0** Att: 23,139

**Guingamp 0**
**Marseille 0** Att: 17,330

**Lille 0**
**Nantes 1** (Ziani 48) Att: 15,222

**Montpellier 2** (Bamogo 32, Guei pen 53)
**Sedan 0** Att: 9,817

**Paris SG 1** (Ogbeche 65)
**Sochaux 1** (Mathieu 85) Att: 40,992

**Strasbourg 2** (Fischer 44, Bassila 80)
**Lens 0** Att: 16,730

**Troyes 3** (Gousse pen 23, 72, Niang 90)
**Bastia 0** Att: 10,424

### Thursday, November 14

**Monaco 3** (Nonda 64, Camara 86, Givet 90)
**Ajaccio 2** (Marquez og 80, Rodriguez pen 88) Att: 5,120

### Saturday, November 16

**Auxerre 0**
**Nice 2** (Olufade 88, Traore 90) Att: 9,000

**Bastia 0**
**Guingamp 2** (Malouda 20, Drogba 47) Att: 5,747

**Lyon 4** (Govou 2, Luyindula 46, 49, Vairelles 52)
**Bordeaux 2** (Sahnoun 20, Sommeil 32) Att: 38,809

**Marseille 0**
**Troyes 0** Att: 46,017

**Nantes 4** (Vahirua 19, 59, Dalmat 80, 89)
**Strasbourg 1** (Ljuboja pen 30) Att: 31,500

**Rennes 0**
**Le Havre 0** Att: 17,161

**Sedan 0**
**Lille 1** (Landrin 78) Att: 11,000

**Sochaux 0**
**Montpellier 0** Att: 12,788

### Sunday, November 17

**Lens 3** (Sibierski 29, Moreira 61, Utaka 69)
**Paris SG 2** (Heinze 40, Andre Luiz 49) Att: 42,000

### Friday, November 22

**Paris SG 0**
**Nantes 1** (Armand 31) Att: 39,827

### Saturday, November 23

**Bordeaux 1** (Pauleta 36)
**Ajaccio 0** Att: 24,479

**Guingamp 2** (Drogba 48, Flachez og 67)
**Sochaux 0** Att: 14,325

**Le Havre 0**
**Auxerre 1** (Tainio 60) Att: 13,065

**Lille 2** (Manchev 68, Landrin 74)
**Lyon 1** (Nee 90) Att: 17,074

**Marseille 1** (Olembe 12)
**Lens 0** Att: 51,000

**Montpellier 2** (Guei 2, pen 17)
**Bastia 2** (Essien 51, Uras 79) Att: 10,304

**Nice 0**
**Rennes 0** Att: 12,235

**Troyes 2** (Adam 31, Hamed 72)
**Sedan 0** Att: 11,239

### Sunday, November 24

**Strasbourg 1** (Bassila 36)
**Monaco 0** Att: 14,750

### Saturday, November 30

**Ajaccio 1** (Faderne 43)
**Le Havre 2** (Fauconnier 54, Lesage 80) Att: 4,500

**Bastia 2** (Ben Saada 74, 87)
**Marseille 0** Att: 9,008

**Monaco 3** (Nonda 39, 69, Marquez 79)
**Paris SG 1** (Ronaldinho 25) Att: 10,870

**Nantes 3** (Vahirua 33, Da Rocha 59, Gillet pen 89)
**Montpellier 1** (Carotti 78) Att: 32,820

**Rennes 5** (Monterrubio 22, Delpierre og 28, Piquionne 35, 49, 64)
**Lille 1** (Manchev 65) Att: 17,141

**Sedan 3** (H Camara 35, 46, Liri 89)
**Nice 0** Att: 12,272

**Sochaux 1** (Oruma 66)
**Troyes 0** Att: 12,160

### Sunday, December 1

**Auxerre 1** (Cisse 36)
**Bordeaux 0** Att: 7,000

**Lens 1** (Sibierski 22)
**Guingamp 3** (Saci 38, Malouda 55, Le Roux pen 90) Att: 34,618

**Lyon 2** (Luyindula 34, Diarra 50)
**Strasbourg 1** (Le Pen 23) Att: 34,235

### Tuesday, December 3

**Nice 3** (Everson 25, Ayeli 36, Diawara 83)
**Ajaccio 0** Att: 10,406

### Wednesday, December 4

**Bastia 0**
**Sedan 1** (N'Diaye 22) Att: 7,219

**Guingamp 2** (Drogba 67, Saci 90)
**Nantes 0** Att: 17,287

**Le Havre 1** (Diawara 55)
**Bordeaux 0** Att: 12,377

**Lille 2** (Manchev 4, Jaures og 26)
**Auxerre 2** (Cisse 27, 73) Att: 14,149

**Marseille 1** (Fernandao 40)
**Sochaux 0** Att: 45,293

**Montpellier 1** (Squillaci og 19)
**Monaco 2** (Giuly 14, 90) Att: 9,781

**Paris SG 2** (Heinze 38, El Karkouri 54)
**Lyon 0** Att: 39,645

**Strasbourg 1** (Bagayoko 90)
**Rennes 3** (Monterrubio pen 47, Beye og 64, Maoulida 90) Att: 13,145

**Troyes 0**
**Lens 0** Att: 11,087

**FRANCE**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nice | 18 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 24 | 10 | 33 |
| Lyon | 18 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 34 | 23 | 31 |
| Guingamp | 18 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 28 | 19 | 31 |
| Auxerre | 18 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 22 | 18 | 31 |
| Marseille | 18 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 18 | 17 | 31 |
| Monaco | 18 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 27 | 19 | 29 |
| Paris SG | 18 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 28 | 19 | 27 |
| Sochaux | 18 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 18 | 14 | 27 |
| Lens | 18 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 17 | 16 | 25 |
| Nantes | 18 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 20 | 20 | 25 |
| Strasbourg | 18 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 23 | 30 | 25 |
| Lille | 18 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 17 | 22 | 24 |
| Bordeaux | 18 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 18 | 18 | 23 |
| Sedan | 18 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 21 | 25 | 22 |
| Bastia | 18 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 18 | 25 | 21 |
| Le Havre | 18 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 14 | 22 | 19 |
| Rennes | 18 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 17 | 22 | 17 |
| Ajaccio | 18 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 13 | 22 | 17 |
| Troyes | 18 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 13 | 19 | 16 |
| Montpellier | 18 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 15 | 25 | 15 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
10 Shabani Nonda (Monaco)
9 Pauleta (Bordeaux)
8 Kaba Diawara (Nice)

## GERMANY

### Saturday, November 9

**Arminia Bielefeld 0**
**Nurnberg 1** (Driller 56) Att: 18,153

**Bayern Munich 2** (Santa Cruz 62, Pizarro 65)
**Borussia Dortmund 1** (Koller 7) Att: 63,000

**Hamburg 1** (Romeo 29)
**1860 Munich 0** Att: 36,370

**Kaiserslautern 0**
**Hannover 1** (Bobic 40) Att: 32,231

**Schalke 0**
**Bayer Leverkusen 1** (Schneider pen 90) Att: 60,601

**Stuttgart 3** (Ganea 74, pen 86, 90)
**Bochum 2** (Christiansen 67, Schindzielorz 84) Att: 21,000

**Wolfsburg 3** (Petrov 28, Ponte 66, Effenberg 84)
**Werder Bremen 1** (Micoud 70) Att: 12,613

### Sunday, November 10

**Hertha 3** (Goor 8, Alves 10, Friedrich 58)
**Hansa Rostock 1** (Salou 15) Att: 40,159

**Monchengladbach 3** (Felgenhauer 2, Ulich 6, Van Hout 22)
**Energie Cottbus 0** Att: 23,200

### Wednesday, November 13

**Kaiserslautern 0**
**Bochum 2** (Christiansen 7, 21) Att: 36,209

### Saturday, November 16

**Bayer Leverkusen 2** (Bierofka 29, 87)
**Monchengladbach 2** (Demo 25, Korzynietz 70) Att: 22,500

**Bayern Munich 1** (Santa Cruz 27)
**Wolfsburg 0** Att: 44,000

**Borussia Dortmund 1** (Ewerthon 5)
**1860 Munich 0** Att: 68,600

**Energie Cottbus 2** (Kobylanski 8, Beeck 66)
**Arminia Bielefeld 1** (Kauf 72) Att: 12,628

**Hannover 0**
**Hertha 1** (Goor 17) Att: 38,794

**Hansa Rostock 1** (Prica 4)
**Stuttgart 1** (Kuranyi 46) Att: 13,800

**Nurnberg 1** (Ciric pen 39)
**Hamburg 3** (Barbarez 26, Maltritz 51, Romeo 66) Att: 26,000

### Sunday, November 17

**Bochum 0**
**Schalke 2** (Kalla og 48, Asamoah 86) Att: 32,645

**Werder Bremen 5** (Verlaat 14, Klose og 61, Ailton 77, 88, Klasnic 90)
**Kaiserslautern 3** (Lincoln 10, H Koch pen 18, Timm 54) Att: 24,000

### Saturday, November 23

**Arminia Bielefeld 2** (Wichniarek 25, 84)
**Bayer Leverkusen 2** (Brdaric 17, Zivkovic 69) Att: 24,100

**Hertha 0**
**Werder Bremen 1** (Ailton 10) Att: 40,166

**Kaiserslautern 0**
**Bayern Munich 2** (Ballack 9, Santa Cruz 16) Att: 41,000

**Monchengladbach 2** (Demo 56, Van Hout 59)
**Bochum 2** (Hashemian 85, Graulund 90) Att: 28,300

**Schalke 2** (Sand 5, Mpenza 39)
**Hansa Rostock 2** (Wibran 51, Prica 86) Att: 60,600

**Stuttgart 3** (Amanatidis 35, Hleb 54, Stefulj og 73)
**Hannover 0** Att: 46,000

**Wolfsburg 2** (Klimowicz 19, 55)
**Borussia Dortmund 0** Att: 19,297

### Sunday, November 24

**Hamburg 1** (Cardoso 47)
**Energie Cottbus 1** (Juskowiak 90) Att: 37,403

**1860 Munich 2** (Lauth 39, 71)
**Nurnberg 2** (Stehle 12, 42) Att: 32,000

### Saturday, November 30

**Bayer Leverkusen 2** (Balitsch 11, Basturk 22)
**Hamburg 3** (Romeo 3, 52, Barbarez 77) Att: 22,500

**Bayern Munich 2** (Ballack 40, pen 71)
**Hertha 0** Att: 40,000

**Bochum 0**
**Arminia Bielefeld 3** (Lense 3, Vander og 54, Diabang 87) Att: 20,071

**Energie Cottbus 3** (Topic 80, Kaluzny 85, Rink 86)
**1860 Munich 4** (Lauth 38, Schroth 54, 64, Weissenberger 61) Att: 11,000

**Hansa Rostock 3** (Vorbeck 19, Prica 53, 63)
**Monchengladbach 1** (Demo pen 38) Att: 14,000

**Kaiserslautern 2** (Lokvenc 15, Lincoln 66)
**Wolfsburg 0** Att: 30,264

**Nurnberg 1** (Jarolim 3)
**Borussia Dortmund 2** (Ricken 54, Ewerthon 78) Att: 36,600

### Sunday, December 1

**Hannover 0**
**Schalke 2** (Bohme pen 15, Mpenza 19) Att: 48,696

**Werder Bremen 3** (Ailton 27, pen 90, Krstajic 80)
**Stuttgart 1** (Kuranyi 55) Att: 32,473

**GERMANY**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bayern Munich | 15 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 33 | 14 | 35 |
| Werder Bremen | 15 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 31 | 26 | 29 |
| B Dortmund | 15 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 21 | 12 | 27 |
| Schalke | 15 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 20 | 13 | 26 |
| Stuttgart | 15 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 25 | 18 | 24 |
| 1860 Munich | 15 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 24 | 20 | 24 |
| Hamburg | 15 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 20 | 22 | 23 |
| Hertha | 15 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 16 | 15 | 22 |
| Wolfsburg | 15 | 7 | 1 | 7 | 17 | 18 | 22 |
| Bochum | 15 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 29 | 26 | 21 |
| Hansa Rostock | 15 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 20 | 17 | 19 |
| Arminia Bielefeld | 15 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 18 | 24 | 18 |
| B Leverkusen | 15 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 21 | 25 | 17 |
| Nurnberg | 15 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 19 | 25 | 17 |
| M'gladbach | 15 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 19 | 17 | 16 |
| Hannover | 15 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 22 | 32 | 15 |
| Kaiserslautern | 15 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 14 | 24 | 10 |
| Energie Cottbus | 15 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 11 | 32 | 9 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
12 Ailton (Werder Bremen)
10 Thomas Christiansen (Bochum)
10 Giovane Elber (Bayern Munich)
9 Sasa Ciric (Nurnberg)
9 Kevin Kuranyi (Stuttgart)

## GREECE

**Nov 9:** AEK 1 Olympiakos 1.
**Nov 10:** Giannina 1 Aigaleo 1; Proodeftiki 5 Akratitos 1; Panathinaikos 1 Panionios 0; Xanthi 1 Panahaiki 1; Ionikos 1 OFI 1; Aris 1 Kallithea 1; Iraklis 1 PAOK 1.
**Nov 23:** OFI 1 Aris 2.
**Nov 24:** Giannina 0 Iraklis 0; PAOK 4 Proodeftiki 1; Aigaleo 0 Panathinaikos 0; Panahaiki 1 Kallithea 2; Akratitos 3 AEK 2; Panionios 0 Xanthi 3; Olympiakos 6 Ionikos 0.
**Nov 30:** Iraklis 1 Proodeftiki 0.
**Dec 1:** AEK 3 PAOK 4; Panathinaikos 1 Giannina 0; Xanthi 5 Aigaleo 0; Ionikos 1 Akratitos 1; Kallithea 1 Panionios 1; Aris 0 Olympiakos 0; OFI 3 Panahaiki 0.

**GREECE**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PAOK | 9 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 23 | 14 | 18 |
| Iraklis | 9 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 13 | 6 | 18 |
| Olympiakos | 9 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 16 | 4 | 17 |
| Panathinaikos | 9 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 8 | 16 |
| Aris | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 9 | 15 |
| Xanthi | 9 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 13 | 5 | 14 |
| Panionios | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 7 | 14 |
| AEK | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 13 | 11 | 14 |
| Proodeftiki | 9 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 10 | 8 | 13 |
| Aigaleo | 9 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 11 |
| Ionikos | 9 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 13 | 10 |
| OFI | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 11 | 9 |
| Kallithea | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 11 | 9 |
| Akratitos | 9 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 18 | 8 |
| Giannina | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 13 | 5 |
| Panahaiki | 9 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 19 | 1 |

## HOLLAND

### Friday, November 8

**Roda JC 1** (Sonko 63)
**Ajax 1** (Van der Vaart 72) Att: 17,500

### Saturday, November 9

**AZ 2** (Van Galen 18, Buskermolen 67)
**RBC 0** Att: 6,823

**De Graafschap 1** (Bakens 47)
**Excelsior 1** (El Hamdaoui 90) Att: 10,400

**NAC 0**
**Groningen 0** Att: 13,874

**PSV 3** (Kezman 63, 78, Van Bommel 86)
**Heerenveen 1** (Hansson 52) Att: 33,500

**Willem II 1** (Janssens 31)
**Vitesse 3** (Levchenko pen 21, Zeman 37, Amoah 89) Att: 13,400

### Sunday, November 10

**Feyenoord 2** (Ono pen 65, Bombarda 67)
**Zwolle 0** Att: 44,000

**NEC 1** (Tumba 75)
**Twente 2** (Polak 15, Zonneveld og 39) Att: 10,500

**RKC 0**
**Utrecht 1** (Roiha 56) Att: 6,000

### Tuesday, November 12

**RBC 2** (Hellemons 53, 88)
**Groningen 0** Att: 5,000

### Wednesday, November 13

**Utrecht 2** (Tanghe 2, Van den Bergh 10)
**Zwolle 0** Att: 14,700

### Friday, November 15

**Willem II 0**
**RKC 1** (Cornelisse 4) Att: 13,800

### Saturday, November 16

**Groningen 3** (Salmon 64, Landerl 77, Drent 80)
**De Graafschap 1** (Turpijn 87) Att: 12,500

### Sunday, November 17

**Ajax 6** (Hossam 16, 47, Van der Meyde 53, Van der Vaart 72, Bergdolmo pen 77, Boukhari 90)
**NEC 0** Att: 46,840

**Excelsior 0**
**NAC 3** (Engelaar 29, Boussaboun 52, Penders 59) Att: 2,948

**PSV 1** (Rommedahl 54)
**Feyenoord 2** (Ono 28, Buffel 43) Att: 35,200

**RBC 4** (Den Ouden 33, 53, Vos pen 84, Fleur 88)
**Roda JC 0** Att: 5,000

**Utrecht 2** (Tanghe 71, Kuijt 90)
**AZ 2** (Nelisse 26, Meerdink 82) Att: 16,800

**Vitesse 1** (Sone 82)
**Heerenveen 2** (Vayrynen 35, Hansma 40) Att: 25,000

**Zwolle 1** (R Roelofsen 82)
**Twente 1** (Cavens 46) Att: 6,350

### Friday, November 22

**Excelsior 0**
**Willem II 3** (Shoukov 24, Mghizrat 81, Ceesay 90) Att: 3,000

### Saturday, November 23

**De Graafschap 3** (Van de Haar 61, Van Vossen 85, Bakens 89)
**NAC 2** (Feher 18, Boussaboun 24) Att: 11,000

**Heerenveen 0**
**Ajax 3** (Van der Meyde 6, 76, Galasek 38) Att: 14,400

**RBC 0**
**PSV 3** (Kezman 45, Ooijer 48, Rommedahl 54) Att: 5,000

**RKC 1** (Oost 82)
**Feyenoord 0** Att: 8,200

**Roda JC 1** (Filipovic 78)
**AZ 3** (Van Galen 3, 44, Tobiasen 22) Att: 13,500

**Twente 1** (Van de Paar 12)
**Vitesse 0** Att: 13,400

### Sunday, November 24

**Utrecht 3** (Tanghe 15, Gluscevic 46, Zonneveld og 65)
**NEC 2** (Demouge 89, Hesp 90) Att: 17,600

**Zwolle 0**
**Groningen 2** (Drent 65, 90) Att: 6,250

### Friday, November 29

**Roda JC 2** (Cristiano 58, Sonko 63)
**Zwolle 0** Att: 14,000

### Saturday, November 30

**AZ 2** (Buskermolen 63, Kromkamp 85)
**RKC 0** Att: 7,551

**NAC 1** (Bobson 71)
**RBC 0** Att: 14,872

**PSV 2** (Vennegoor of Hesselink 14, Kezman 45)
**Willem II 1** (Van der Gun 47) Att: 33,400

### Sunday, December 1

**Ajax 2** (Van der Vaart 18, 90)
**Twente 1** (Polak pen 42) Att: 47,440

**Feyenoord 2** (Emerton 31, Bosvelt 90)
**Utrecht 1** (Tanghe 78) Att: 44,000

**Groningen 1** (Salmon 60)
**Heerenveen 1** (Samaras 77) Att: 12,000

**Vitesse 1** (Sone 66)
**De Graafschap 1** (Van de Haar 61) Att: 22,500

**HOLLAND**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ajax | 14 | 11 | 3 | 0 | 39 | 13 | 36 |
| PSV | 14 | 10 | 3 | 1 | 34 | 7 | 33 |
| Feyenoord | 14 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 32 | 15 | 29 |
| Roda JC | 14 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 26 | 20 | 23 |
| Utrecht | 14 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 20 | 15 | 23 |
| NAC | 14 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 20 | 11 | 22 |
| RKC | 14 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 16 | 21 | 21 |
| AZ | 14 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 25 | 31 | 20 |
| Willem II | 14 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 21 | 21 | 18 |
| Twente | 14 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 16 | 22 | 17 |
| Vitesse | 14 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 16 | 15 | 16 |
| RBC | 14 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 19 | 22 | 15 |
| NEC | 13 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 17 | 26 | 15 |
| Excelsior | 13 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 15 | 23 | 13 |
| Heerenveen | 14 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 17 | 26 | 13 |
| Zwolle | 14 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 14 | 25 | 12 |
| Groningen | 14 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 13 | 25 | 9 |
| De Graafschap | 14 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 13 | 35 | 8 |

**LEADING GOALSCORER**
15 Mateja Kezman (PSV)

## HUNGARY

**Nov 8:** Ferencvaros 0 Bekescsaba 1.
**Nov 9:** Debrecen 0 MTK 0; Gyor 1 Dunaferr 0; Siofok 0 Kispest-Honved 2; Zalaegerszeg 3 Matav 0; Ujpest 2 Videoton 1.
**Nov 15:** MTK 2 Gyor 0.
**Nov 16:** Zalaegerszeg 2 Dunaferr 1; Videoton 2 Kispest-Honved 0; Bekescsaba 1 Siofok 1; Matav 1 Ferencvaros 3; Ujpest 1 Debrecen 1.
**Nov 22:** Gyor 1 Ujpest 3.
**Nov 23:** Ferencvaros 3 Dunaferr 0; Siofok 2 Matav 1; Kispest-Honved 2 Bekescsaba 0; Debrecen 0 Videoton 0; Zalaegerszeg 1 MTK 2.
**Nov 30:** Videoton 1 Bekescsaba 3; Dunaferr 0 Siofok 0; Matav 4 Kispest-Honved 2; Debrecen 3 Gyor 1; Zalaegerszeg 3 Ujpest 3.
**Dec 1:** MTK 0 Ferencvaros 1.

**HUNGARY**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MTK | 17 | 12 | 2 | 3 | 34 | 15 | 38 |
| Ferencvaros | 16 | 11 | 2 | 3 | 31 | 11 | 35 |
| Ujpest | 17 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 37 | 26 | 30 |
| Debrecen | 17 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 34 | 25 | 29 |
| Gyor | 17 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 28 | 23 | 27 |
| Siofok | 17 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 23 | 22 | 26 |
| Zalaegerszeg | 17 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 33 | 29 | 25 |
| Matav | 17 | 4 | 4 | 9 | 22 | 31 | 16 |
| Videoton | 17 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 16 | 27 | 15 |
| Dunaferr | 17 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 21 | 32 | 14 |
| Bekescsaba | 17 | 4 | 1 | 12 | 23 | 44 | 13 |
| Kispest-Honved | 16 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 21 | 38 | 12 |

## ITALY

### Saturday, November 9

**Inter 1** (Vieri 3)
**Udinese 2** (Jorgensen 25, Muzzi 55) Att: 58,963

**Piacenza 1** (Maresca 74)
**Roma 1** (Cassano 27) Att: 8,301

### Sunday, November 10

**Bologna 1** (Signori pen 74)
**Como 0** Att: 20,193

**Brescia 0**
**Empoli 2** (Busce 86, Di Natale 89) Att: 16,000

**Chievo 4** (Cossato 45, 87, Franceschini 57, Perrotta 85)
**Atalanta 1** (Sala 40) Att: 13,202

**Juventus 2** (Di Vaio 8, Thuram 21)
**Milan 1** (Pirlo pen 32) Att: 57,802

**Lazio 0**
**Parma 0** Att: 45,000

**Perugia 2** (Caracciolo 38, Ze Maria pen 87)
**Torino 1** (Ferrante 81) Att: 10,000

**Reggina 0**
**Modena 1** (Pasino 80) Att: 10,000

### Saturday, November 16

**Bologna 2** (Cruz 31, Signori 37)
**Perugia 1** (Caracciolo 45) Att: 20,112

**Roma 2** (Montella 59, Batistuta 73)
**Inter 2** (Morfeo 58, Okan 89) Att: 67,726

### Sunday, November 17

**Atalanta 2** (Dabo 69, Comandini 73)
**Brescia 0** Att: 10,964

**Como 1** (Corrent 37)
**Lazio 3** (Simeone 18, Claudio Lopez 56, 63) Att: 7,008

**Empoli 4** (Di Natale 3, 40, 90, Rocchi pen 53)
**Reggina 2** (Nakamura pen 6, Vargas 80) Att: 9,755

**Milan 2** (Pirlo pen 48, pen 70)
**Parma 1** (E Filippini 64) Att: 59,648

**Modena 1** (Milanetto pen 33)
**Piacenza 0** Att: 6,960

**Torino 0**
**Juventus 4** (Del Piero 6, Di Vaio 33, Nedved 51, Davids 89) Att: 32,947

**Udinese 2** (Jorgensen 13, Jancker 28)
**Chievo 1** (Bierhoff 48) Att: 13,637

### Saturday, November 23

**Juventus 1** (Iuliano 86)
**Bologna 1** (Signori pen 66) Att: 36,544

**Milan 1** (Serginho 13)
**Inter 0** Att: 78,843

### Sunday, November 24

**Brescia 1** (Sensini og 68)
**Udinese 1** (Jorgensen 9) Att: 10,030

**Chievo 1** (Marazzina 27)
**Empoli 0** Att: 12,530

**Lazio 4** (Corradi 25, 90, Claudio Lopez 31, Cesar 71)
**Modena 0** Att: 42,100

**Parma 3** (Bonazzoli 11, 72, Mutu pen 23)
**Roma 0** Att: 17,223

**Perugia 3** (Fusani 14, Miccoli 47, Milanese 90)
**Como 0** Att: 6,672

**Piacenza 1** (Di Francesco 23)
**Torino 0** Att: 6,433

**Reggina 1** (Savoldi 55)
**Atalanta 1** (Gautieri 34) Att: 23,594

### Saturday, November 30

**Reggina 1** (Nakamura pen 23)
**Chievo 1** (Legrottaglie 49) Att: 12,306

### Sunday, December 1

**Atalanta 0**
**Perugia 2** (Miccoli 22, Fusani 80) Att: 13,133

**Bologna 3** (Locatelli 56, Cruz 81, Amoroso 82)
**Modena 0** Att: 17,069

**Empoli 1** (Rocchi 42)
**Milan 1** (Shevchenko 52) Att: 17,653

**Inter 4** (Vieri 3, 13, 61, 89)
**Brescia 0** Att: 61,294

**Piacenza 2** (Maresca 18, Caccia 27)
**Lazio 3** (Simeone 42, Claudio Lopez 45, Corradi 89) Att: 8,177

**Roma 2** (Totti 12, Cassano 44)
**Juventus 2** (Del Piero 45, Nedved 85) Att: 66,613

**Torino 0**
**Parma 4** (Brighi 16, Mutu 25, Adriano 50, 61) Att: 12,718

**ITALY**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lazio | 12 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 25 | 10 | 27 |
| Milan | 12 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 27 | 9 | 26 |
| Inter | 12 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 25 | 12 | 26 |
| Juventus | 12 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 21 | 8 | 26 |
| Chievo | 12 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 21 | 13 | 22 |
| Bologna | 12 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 16 | 9 | 22 |
| Parma | 12 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 22 | 14 | 19 |
| Modena | 12 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 11 | 19 | 18 |
| Roma | 12 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 23 | 21 | 17 |
| Empoli | 12 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 19 | 17 | 17 |
| Perugia | 12 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 17 | 19 | 17 |
| Udinese | 11 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 12 | 15 |
| Piacenza | 12 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 11 | 17 | 11 |
| Brescia | 12 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 14 | 25 | 9 |
| Atalanta | 12 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 11 | 23 | 8 |
| Reggina | 12 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 10 | 21 | 7 |
| Torino | 12 | 2 | 0 | 10 | 6 | 26 | 6 |
| Como | 11 | 0 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 19 | 4 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
12 Christian Vieri (Inter)
9 Alessandro Del Piero (Juventus)
9 Francesco Totti (Roma)
8 Antonio Di Natale (Empoli)
7 Filippo Inzaghi (Milan)

## LATVIA

**LATVIA – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Skonto Riga | 28 | 23 | 4 | 1 | 95 | 19 | 73 |
| Ventspils | 28 | 22 | 5 | 1 | 77 | 20 | 71 |
| Metalurgs | 28 | 15 | 6 | 7 | 56 | 31 | 51 |
| Dinaburg | 28 | 12 | 4 | 12 | 37 | 35 | 40 |
| Valmiera | 28 | 6 | 6 | 16 | 26 | 54 | 24 |
| PFK/Daugava | 28 | 6 | 5 | 17 | 29 | 60 | 23 |
| FK Riga | 28 | 6 | 2 | 20 | 24 | 75 | 20 |
| Auda | 28 | 5 | 2 | 21 | 23 | 73 | 17 |

### LATVIAN CUP – Final

*Oct 20 - Skonto stadium, Riga*
**Skonto Riga 3** (Buitkus 30, 76, Ksanavicius 90)
**Metalurgs 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Lajuks
*Sent off: Krucs (Metalurgs) 78min*

## LITHUANIA

**LITHUANIA – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FBK Kaunas | 32 | 24 | 6 | 2 | 85 | 20 | 78 |
| Atlantas | 32 | 20 | 7 | 5 | 58 | 23 | 67 |
| Ekranas | 32 | 16 | 7 | 9 | 43 | 25 | 55 |
| Zalgiris Vilnius | 32 | 12 | 11 | 9 | 46 | 37 | 47 |
| Inkaras | 32 | 13 | 7 | 12 | 34 | 29 | 46 |
| Suduva | 32 | 11 | 8 | 13 | 44 | 50 | 41 |
| Sakalas | 32 | 8 | 10 | 14 | 30 | 56 | 34 |
| Gelezinis | 32 | 4 | 6 | 22 | 26 | 75 | 18 |
| Nevezis | 32 | 2 | 6 | 24 | 19 | 70 | 12 |

## NORWAY

### NORWEGIAN CUP – Final

*Nov 3 - Ullevaal stadium, Oslo*
**Valerenga 1** (Levernes 5)
**Odd Grenland 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 25,481. **Ref:** Skjerven

## POLAND

**Nov 7:** KSZO 2 Polonia 1.
**Nov 8:** Zaglebie 1 Amica 1.
**Nov 9:** Groclin 1 Ruch C 1; Legia 2 Garbarnia 1; Pogon 0 Lech 1; Gornik 4 Widzew 0; Wisla K 4 Wisla P 0.
**Nov 10:** Odra 0 Katowice 3.
**Nov 15:** Amica 0 Katowice 1.
**Nov 16:** Polonia 2 Odra 2; Wisla P 2 KSZO 0; Lech 3 Gornik 1; Garbarnia 2 Pogon 1.
**Nov 17:** Ruch C 1 Legia 0; Zaglebie 1 Groclin 2; Widzew 2 Wisla K 4.
**Nov 22:** KSZO 0 Widzew 0.
**Nov 23:** Legia 3 Zaglebie 1; Pogon 0 Ruch C 3; Gornik 3 Garbarnia 0; Wisla K 3 Lech 2; Odra 2 Wisla P 0; Katowice 2 Polonia 1.
**Nov 24:** Groclin 1 Amica 2.

**POLAND**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wisla K | 15 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 42 | 18 | 33 |
| Katowice | 15 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 21 | 9 | 32 |
| Legia | 15 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 26 | 14 | 30 |
| Odra | 15 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 23 | 19 | 28 |
| Groclin | 15 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 26 | 20 | 26 |
| Gornik | 15 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 26 | 18 | 22 |
| Amica | 15 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 18 | 15 | 21 |
| Ruch C | 15 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 16 | 21 | 20 |
| Wisla P | 15 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 17 | 20 | 19 |
| Lech | 15 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 16 | 18 | 16 |
| Garbarnia | 15 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 24 | 30 | 16 |
| Polonia | 15 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 19 | 27 | 16 |
| KSZO | 15 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 15 | 27 | 15 |
| Zaglebie | 15 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 17 | 19 | 13 |
| Widzew | 15 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 13 | 23 | 12 |
| Pogon | 15 | 1 | 3 | 11 | 11 | 32 | 6 |

## PORTUGAL

### Friday, November 8

**Guimaraes 1** (Bessa 62)
**Sporting Lisbon 3** (Jardel 18, Tonito 51, 54)

### Saturday, November 9

**Boavista 0**
**Moreirense 0**

**Maritimo 3** (Van der Gaag 1, Pepin 45, Pepe 81)
**Sporting Braga 0**

**Setubal 0**
**FC Porto 1** (Helder Postiga 45)

### Sunday, November 10

**Beira Mar 2** (Ricardo Sousa 11, Fary 19)
**Varzim 1** (Jorge Ribeiro 57)

**Benfica 7** (Tiago 19, 41, Roger 30, Nuno Gomes 60, Joao Manuel Pinto 70, Mantorras 76, 90)
**Pacos Ferreira 0**

**Nacional 3** (Adriano 6, Alvarez 50, 68)
**Academica 2** (Tonel 16, Andre 25)

**Uniao Leiria 3** (Edson 25, Alhandra 45, Fredy 78)
**Santa Clara 1** (Ceara 44)

### Monday, November 11

**Gil Vicente 3** (Luis Loureiro 8, Gaspar 39, Manoel 67)
**Belenenses 1** (Carlos Fernandes 14)

### Friday, November 15

**Sporting Lisbon 2** (Contreras 85, Niculae 89)
**Maritimo 0**

### Saturday, November 16

**Varzim 2** (Gilmar 36, Quim Berto pen 59)
**Benfica 1** (Simao pen 40)

### Sunday, November 17

**Academica 1** (Xano 54)
**Setubal 1** (Jorginho 83)

**Belenenses 1** (Ludemar 75)
**Guimaraes 0**

**Pacos Ferreira 1** (Beto 67)
**Uniao Leiria 0**

**Santa Clara 2** (Ceara 15, Fidalgo og 22)
**Nacional 3** (Adriano 35, 63, Alvarez 90)

**Sporting Braga 0**
**Beira Mar 0**

### Monday, November 18

**Boavista 0**
**Gil Vicente 1** (Paulo Alves 71)

**Moreirense 0**
**FC Porto 1** (Derlei 73)

### Saturday, November 30

**Beira Mar 1** (Filipe 6)
**Sporting Lisbon 3** (Niculae 34, Jardel 56, Tonito 88)

**Benfica 3** (Tiago 18, Mantorras 40, Simao 77)
**Sporting Braga 0**

**Gil Vicente 2** (Paulo Alves 13, Casquilha 38)
**Moreirense 1** (Nuno Cavaleiro 5)

**Setubal 0**
**Santa Clara 0**

### Sunday, December 1

**Maritimo 2** (Eric Gaucho 35, 45)
**Belenenses 1** (Eduardo Marques 47)

**Nacional 4** (Adriano 49, 88, Rossato 55, Gouveia 57)
**Pacos Ferreira 0**

**Uniao Leiria 3** (Silas 28, 77, Maciel 55)
**Varzim 1** (Quim Berto 80)

### Monday, December 2

**Guimaraes 3** (Pedro Mendes 24, Djurdjevic 74, Fangueiro 81)
**Boavista 1** (Silva pen 33)

**FC Porto 4** (Maniche 50, Deco 76, Helder Postiga 78, Jankauskas pen 90)
**Academica 1** (Dario 4)

### Wednesday, December 4

**Benfica 3** (Nuno Gomes 20, Tiago 34, Petit 90)
**Gil Vicente 1** (Duah 11)

**Santa Clara 2** (Paiva 58, Ceara 68)
**Maritimo 1** (Joel Santos 12)

**PORTUGAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FC Porto | 12 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 25 | 10 | 30 |
| Benfica | 13 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 30 | 12 | 26 |
| Sporting Lisbon | 12 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 21 | 15 | 25 |
| Guimaraes | 12 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 26 | 19 | 22 |
| Gil Vicente | 13 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 19 | 18 | 20 |
| Belenenses | 12 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 15 | 14 | 20 |
| Varzim | 12 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 19 | 16 | 19 |
| Nacional | 12 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 18 | 17 | 17 |
| Pacos Ferreira | 12 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 14 | 20 | 16 |
| Maritimo | 12 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 13 | 19 | 16 |
| Setubal | 12 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 14 | 10 | 14 |
| Uniao Leiria | 12 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 15 | 17 | 14 |
| Sporting Braga | 12 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 12 | 21 | 14 |
| Beira Mar | 12 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 13 |
| Boavista | 12 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 13 | 12 |
| Santa Clara | 12 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 15 | 22 | 11 |
| Moreirense | 12 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 11 | 18 | 8 |
| Academica | 12 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 13 | 22 | 8 |

**LEADING GOALSCORER**
9 Simao Sabrosa (Benfica)

## REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

### FAI CUP – Final

*Oct 27 - Tolka Park, Dublin*
**Derry City 1** (Coyle 47)
**Shamrock Rovers 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 9,000. **Ref:** O'Neill

## ROMANIA

**Nov 9:** Ceahlaul 1 Rapid 2; Arges 2 Gloria 0; Steaua 0 National 2; Bacau 1 UTA 0; Astra 2 Farul 1; U Craiova 2 Otelul 0; Poli AEK 2 Brasov 1.
**Nov 10:** Dinamo 3 Sportul 1.
**Nov 15:** Poli AEK 2 Ceahlaul 0.
**Nov 16:** UTA 2 Steaua 0; Sportul 3 Astra 0; Otelul 2 Dinamo 0; Brasov 3 U Craiova 1.
**Nov 17:** National 3 Arges 1; Gloria 0 Rapid 3.
**Nov 23:** Ceahlaul 3 Gloria 0; Arges 1 UTA 0; Bacau 1 Sportul 0; Astra 2 Otelul 0; U Craiova 1 Poli AEK 0.
**Nov 24:** Rapid 2 National 0; Steaua 1 Farul 0; Dinamo 1 Brasov 0.
**Nov 30:** UTA 0 Rapid 2; Farul 2 Arges 1; Otelul 1 Bacau 0; Brasov 1 Astra 1; U Craiova 0 Ceahlaul 0; Poli AEK 2 Dinamo 3.
**Dec 1:** National 0 Gloria 0; Sportul 1 Steaua 2.

**ROMANIA**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rapid | 14 | 12 | 0 | 2 | 31 | 10 | 36 |
| Dinamo | 14 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 28 | 16 | 26 |
| National | 14 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 18 | 12 | 24 |
| Steaua | 14 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 14 | 13 | 22 |
| Poli AEK | 14 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 21 | 21 | 22 |
| Brasov | 14 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 17 | 15 | 21 |
| Otelul | 14 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 15 | 19 | 21 |
| Gloria | 14 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 15 | 12 | 19 |
| U Craiova | 14 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 18 | 23 | 18 |
| Farul | 14 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 12 | 16 | 17 |
| Arges | 14 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 14 | 19 | 17 |
| Bacau | 14 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 12 | 15 | 16 |
| Ceahlaul | 14 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 18 | 15 | 15 |
| Sportul | 14 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 18 | 23 | 14 |
| Astra | 14 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 16 | 24 | 14 |
| UTA | 14 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 14 | 28 | 13 |

## RUSSIA

**Nov 9:** CSKA 2 Spartak 1.
**Nov 10:** Lokomotiv M 2 Zenit 1; Shinnik 2 Torpedo-ZIL 0; Rostselmash 1 Sokol 1; Kryliya Sovetov 0 Dinamo 0; Torpedo M 1 Saturn 1; Anzhi 0 Alaniya 1; Rotor 2 Uralan 0.
**Nov 17:** Spartak 0 Torpedo M 1; Uralan 0 Anzhi 1; Alaniya 0 Rotor 1; Saturn 0 CSKA 3; Zenit 1 Kryliya Sovetov 2; Torpedo-ZIL 2 Rostselmash 0; Sokol 1 Shinnik 3; Dinamo 1 Lokomotiv M 2.

**RUSSIA – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lokomotiv M | 30 | 19 | 9 | 2 | 46 | 14 | 66 |
| CSKA | 30 | 21 | 3 | 6 | 60 | 26 | 66 |
| Spartak | 30 | 16 | 7 | 7 | 49 | 36 | 55 |
| Torpedo M | 30 | 14 | 8 | 8 | 47 | 32 | 50 |
| Kryliya Sovetov | 30 | 15 | 4 | 11 | 39 | 32 | 49 |
| Shinnik | 30 | 13 | 8 | 9 | 42 | 37 | 47 |
| Saturn | 30 | 13 | 8 | 9 | 41 | 37 | 47 |
| Dinamo | 30 | 12 | 6 | 12 | 38 | 33 | 42 |
| Rotor | 30 | 11 | 5 | 14 | 27 | 34 | 38 |
| Zenit | 30 | 8 | 9 | 13 | 36 | 42 | 33 |
| Rostselmash | 30 | 7 | 10 | 13 | 29 | 49 | 31 |
| Alaniya | 30 | 8 | 6 | 16 | 31 | 42 | 30 |
| Uralan | 30 | 6 | 11 | 13 | 32 | 42 | 29 |
| Torpedo-ZIL | 30 | 6 | 10 | 14 | 20 | 39 | 28 |
| Anzhi | 30 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 22 | 43 | 25 |
| Sokol | 30 | 5 | 8 | 17 | 24 | 45 | 23 |

### Championship play-off

*Nov 21 - Dinamo stadium, Moscow*
**CSKA 0**
**Lokomotiv 1** (Loskov 6)
**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 34,000. **Ref:** Ivanov

## SCOTLAND

### Saturday, November 9

**Hearts 0**
**Aberdeen 0** Att: 11,920

**Livingston 3** (Dadi 47, Andrews 51, Bingham 59)
**Partick 0** Att: 6,218

**Motherwell 0**
**Kilmarnock 1** (Boyd 90) Att: 4,439

### Sunday, November 10

**Dundee Utd 0**
**Celtic 2** (Hartson 14, Sutton 88) Att: 10,664

**Rangers 2** (Mols 11, Arveladze 35)
**Hibernian 1** (McManus 45) Att: 48,798

### Tuesday, November 12

**Dundee 2** (Nicholson og 8, Lovell 19)
**Dunfermline 3** (Brewster 25, Crawford 74, Dair 84) Att: 5,475

### Saturday, November 16

**Aberdeen 2** (Mike 56, Mackie 74)
**Rangers 2** (Numan 24, Ferguson pen 78) Att: 14,915

**Hibernian 2** (Paatelainen 12, pen 49)
**Dundee 1** (Novo 90) Att: 8,870

**Kilmarnock 2** (Di Giacomo 64, McSwegan 90)
**Livingston 0** Att: 5,270

**Motherwell 1** (Lehmann 82)
**Dundee Utd 2** (Hamilton 1, 24) Att: 5,381

### Sunday, November 17

**Celtic 4** (Sutton 10, Petrov 33, 68, Larsson 90)
**Partick 0** Att: 57,839

**Dunfermline 3** (Nicholson 65, Bullen 76, Crawford 90)
**Hearts 1** (Severin 53) Att: 4,800

### Saturday, November 23

**Dundee 3** (Caballero 11, 30, Hernandez 55)
**Dundee Utd 2** (Hamilton 67, McIntyre 83) Att: 11,539

**Hibernian 3** (Paatelainen 59, McManus 64, O'Neil pen 90)
**Motherwell 1** (Ferguson 47) Att: 8,859

**Kilmarnock 0**
**Hearts 1** (De Vries 48) Att: 6,511

**Partick 2** (Lilley 32, Hardie 79)
**Aberdeen 1** (Mike 84) Att: 6,182

**Rangers 3** (McCann 60, Mols 81, Arveladze 83)
**Dunfermline 0** Att: 48,431

**Sunday, November 24**

**Livingston 0**
**Celtic 2** (Larsson pen 6, 83) Att: 10,002

**Saturday, November 30**

**Dundee Utd 1** (Hamilton pen 37)
**Aberdeen 1** (McGuire pen 27) Att: 8,621

**Dunfermline 1** (Crawford 66)
**Hibernian 1** (McManus 57) Att: 7,515

**Livingston 1** (Camacho 2)
**Dundee 1** (Novo pen 72) Att: 5,307

**Partick 3** (Burns 64, 79, 87)
**Kilmarnock 0** Att: 5,055

**Sunday, December 1**

**Celtic 3** (Larsson 53, Leitch og 67, Valgaeren 72)
**Motherwell 1** (Lehmann 74) Att: 56,733

**Hearts 0**
**Rangers 4** (Ricksen 52, 81, Ferguson pen 79, Hughes 90) Att: 12,156

**Tuesday, December 3**

**Aberdeen 0**
**Kilmarnock 1** (McSwegan 66) Att: 8,861

**Wednesday, December 4**

**Dundee 4** (Brady 38, Sara 51, Lovell 67, 75)
**Partick 1** (Britton 70) Att: 5,363

**Dunfermline 4** (Brewster 4, pen 38, Walker 41, Nicholson 55)
**Dundee Utd 1** (McIntyre 61) Att: 4,342

**Hibernian 0**
**Celtic 1** (Petrov 76) Att: 12,042

**Motherwell 6** (Pearson 15, McFadden pen 19, 26, Adams 36, Corrigan 66, Ferguson 90)
**Hearts 1** (Kirk 51) Att: 4,114

**Rangers 4** (Ferguson 8, Arveladze 10, 18, 46)
**Livingston 3** (Zarate 50, 87, Wilson 72) Att: 45,992

**SCOTLAND**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Celtic | 18 | 16 | 1 | 1 | 52 | 9 | 49 |
| Rangers | 18 | 15 | 3 | 0 | 56 | 13 | 48 |
| Dunfermline | 18 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 34 | 34 | 30 |
| Hibernian | 18 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 25 | 27 | 25 |
| Dundee | 18 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 24 | 27 | 24 |
| Hearts | 18 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 26 | 31 | 24 |
| Kilmarnock | 18 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 17 | 31 | 22 |
| Aberdeen | 18 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 17 | 30 | 18 |
| Partick | 18 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 17 | 31 | 18 |
| Livingston | 18 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 25 | 30 | 16 |
| Dundee Utd | 18 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 17 | 34 | 14 |
| Motherwell | 18 | 3 | 3 | 12 | 23 | 36 | 12 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
19 Henrik Larsson (Celtic)
11 Stevie Crawford (Dunfermline)

ESM
EUROPEAN SPORTS MAGAZINES
GOLDEN SHOE

## ESM GOLDEN SHOE STANDINGS AT 01.12.02

| pos | name | team | goals | factor | pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Andrei Krolov | Tallinna VMK (Est) | 37 | 1 | 37 |
| 2 | Arman Karamian | Pyunik (Arm) | 36 | 1 | 36 |
| 3 | Henrik Larsson | Celtic (Sco) | 19 | 1.5 | 28.5 |
| 4 | Harald Brattbakk | Rosenborg (Nor) | 17 | 1.5 | 25.5 |
| 5 | Ailton | Werder Bremen (Ger) | 12 | 2 | 24 |
| | Maksim Gruznov | Trans Narva (Est) | 24 | 1 | 24 |
| | Peter Ijeh | Malmo (Swe) | 24 | 1 | 24 |
| | Axel Lawaree | Bregenz (Aut) | 16 | 1.5 | 24 |
| | Christian Vieri | Internazionale (Ita) | 12 | 2 | 24 |
| 10 | Tor Henning Hamre | Flora Tallinn (Est) | 23 | 1 | 23 |
| | Mihail Miholaps | Skonto Riga (Lat) | 23 | 1 | 23 |
| 12 | Tryggvi Gudmundsson | Stabaek (Nor) | 15 | 1.5 | 22.5 |
| | Rolan Gusev | CSKA Moscow (Rus) | 15 | 1.5 | 22.5 |
| | Mateja Kezman | PSV Eindhoven (Hol) | 15 | 1.5 | 22.5 |
| | Dmitri Kirichenko | CSKA Moscow (Rus) | 15 | 1.5 | 22.5 |
| | Milaim Rama | Thun (Swi) | 15 | 1.5 | 22.5 |
| | Maciej Zurawski | Wisla Krakow (Pol) | 15 | 1.5 | 22.5 |
| 18 | Ara Hakopyan | Spartak (Arm) | 21 | 1 | 21 |
| | Alexander Kerzhakov | Zenit (Rus) | 14 | 1.5 | 21 |
| | Andrzej Niedzielan | Gornik (Pol) | 14 | 1.5 | 21 |
| | Wesley Sonck | Genk (Blg) | 14 | 1.5 | 21 |

**For the latest standings, updated twice weekly, visit www.worldsoccer.com**

## SPAIN

**Saturday, November 9**

**Barcelona 1** (Riquelme pen 75)
**Villarreal 0** Att: 66,741

**Malaga 1** (Dario Silva 69)
**Osasuna 0** Att: 12,000

**Rayo Vallecano 2** (Azkoitia 28, Julio Alvarez pen 75)
**Real Madrid 3** (Ronaldo 15, Roberto Carlos 57, Figo 90) Att: 16,500

**Real Sociedad 1** (Kovacevic 17)
**Deportivo La Coruna 1** (Luque 39) Att: 25,000

**Valencia 1** (Aimar 81)
**Betis 1** (Marcos Assuncao 69) Att: 50,000

**Sunday, November 10**

**Atletico Madrid 3** (Jose Mari 23, 75, 90)
**Athletic Bilbao 3** (Urzaiz 49, 52, 82) Att: 42,750

**Celta Vigo 1** (Jose Ignacio 17)
**Espanyol 0** Att: 16,000

**Mallorca 3** (Pandiani 30, pen 77, Ibagaza 67)
**Alaves 1** (Ilie 90) Att: 17,000

**Recreativo 1** (Loren 83)
**Valladolid 3** (Olivera 21, Pachon 45, Mario 82) Att: 18,000

**Sevilla 1** (Javi Casquero 32)
**Racing Santander 0** Att: 35,000

**Saturday, November 16**

**Deportivo La Coruna 2** (Scaloni 82, Luque 85)
**Barcelona 0** Att: 34,200

**Villarreal 1** (Belletti 89)
**Sevilla 0** Att: 17,000

**Sunday, November 17**

**Alaves 3** (Ruben Navarro 10, Magno 19, Ilie 55)
**Recreativo 0** Att: 15,785

**Athletic Bilbao 2** (Urzaiz 77, Larrazabal pen 80)
**Rayo Vallecano 1** (Bolo 44) Att: 30,000

**Betis 2** (Alfonso 69, Joaquin 89)
**Celta Vigo 1** (Jose Ignacio 63) Att: 35,000

**Espanyol 1** (Maxi Rodriguez 49)
**Atletico Madrid 2** (Luis Garcia 75, Garcia Calvo 89) Att: 29,000

**Osasuna 1** (Ivan Rosado 6)
**Valencia 0** Att: 15,692

**Racing Santander 1** (Ismael pen 33)
**Mallorca 2** (Ibagaza 42, Pandiani pen 55) Att: 15,280

**Real Madrid 0**
**Real Sociedad 0** Att: 72,874

**Valladolid 0**
**Malaga 0** Att: 12,000

**Saturday, November 23**

**Barcelona 0**
**Real Madrid 0** Att: 98,152

**Rayo Vallecano 0**
**Real Sociedad 0** Att: 10,000

**Sevilla 1** (Antonio 4)
**Deportivo La Coruna 1** (Makaay 50) Att: 28,000

**Sunday, November 24**

**Athletic Bilbao 4** (Larrazabal pen 20, Gurpegi 49, Urzaiz 71, Etxeberria 79)
**Espanyol 1** (Maxi Rodriguez 15) Att: 33,000

**Atletico Madrid 1** (Fernando Torres 13)
**Betis 0** Att: 40,000

**Celta Vigo 0**
**Osasuna 0** Att: 15,000

**Malaga 0**
**Alaves 0** Att: 12,000

**Mallorca 1** (Pandiani 56)
**Villarreal 1** (Palermo 22) Att: 16,400

**Recreativo 2** (Raul Molina 85, 90)
**Racing Santander 1** (Pablo Sierra 3) Att: 18,000

**Valencia 2** (Mista 9, 30)
**Valladolid 0** Att: 50,000

**Saturday, November 30**

**Osasuna 1** (Rivero 62)
**Atletico Madrid 0** Att: 14,490

**Sunday, December 1**

**Alaves 0**
**Valencia 0** Att: 14,653

**Betis 1** (Marcos Assuncao 75)
**Athletic Bilbao 0** Att: 35,000

**Deportivo La Coruna 2** (Makaay 13, 70)
**Mallorca 2** (Pandiani 31, Eto'o pen 45) Att: 28,000

**Espanyol 3** (Tamudo 10, 60, Milosevic 90)
**Rayo Vallecano 1** (Alex Fernandez og 89) Att: 17,000

**Racing Santander 1** (Munitis 32)
**Malaga 0** Att: 14,032

**Real Sociedad 2** (Kovacevic 39, 52)
**Barcelona 1** (Kluivert 32) Att: 29,000

**Valladolid 0**
**Celta Vigo 2** (Catanha 10, Edu 53) Att: 11,800

**Villarreal 1** (Victor 64)
**Recreativo 0** Att: 15,000

**SPAIN**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Real Sociedad | 12 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 23 | 14 | 26 |
| Mallorca | 12 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 19 | 15 | 23 |
| Valencia | 12 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 20 | 7 | 22 |
| Celta Vigo | 12 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 15 | 8 | 21 |
| Betis | 12 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 20 | 12 | 20 |
| Dep La Coruna | 12 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 17 | 16 | 19 |
| Real Madrid | 11 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 17 | 10 | 18 |
| Atletico Madrid | 12 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 18 | 13 | 18 |
| Malaga | 12 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 17 | 17 | 17 |
| Barcelona | 12 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 18 | 15 | 16 |
| Athletic Bilbao | 12 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 18 | 23 | 15 |
| Villarreal | 12 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 12 | 12 | 14 |
| Racing Santander | 12 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| Valladolid | 12 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 11 | 16 | 14 |
| Alaves | 12 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 14 | 21 | 13 |
| Osasuna | 12 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 12 | 18 | 12 |
| Sevilla | 11 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 10 | 11 |
| Espanyol | 12 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 12 | 21 | 10 |
| Rayo Vallecano | 12 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 14 | 22 | 9 |
| Recreativo | 12 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 23 | 8 |

**LEADING GOALSCORERS**
10 Roy Makaay (Deportivo La Coruna)
9 Darko Kovacevic (Real Sociedad)
8 Walter Pandiani (Mallorca)

## SWEDEN

### SWEDISH CUP – Final

*Nov 9 - Rasunda stadium, Stockholm*
**AIK 0**
**Djurgardens 1** (Chanko 99 - golden goal)
*Aet.* **HT:** 0-0. **90mins:** 0-0. **Att:** 33,727.
**Ref:** Ingvarsson

## SWITZERLAND

**Nov 16:** Servette 1 Wil 1900 1; Zurich 1 Aarau 2.
**Nov 17:** Delemont 2 Young Boys 4; Lucerne 1 Basle 1; St Gallen 0 Neuchatel Xamax 2; Thun 2 Grasshopper 2.
**Nov 22:** Basle 3 Thun 0.
**Nov 23:** Grasshopper 3 Delemont 0; Neuchatel Xamax 2 Zurich 2.
**Nov 24:** Aarau 0 Servette 3; Wil 1900 2 Lucerne 1; Young Boys 1 St Gallen 2.
**Dec 1:** Basle 1 Grasshopper 2; Lucerne 2 Aarau 0; Servette 1 Neuchatel Xamax 1; St Gallen 3 Delemont 0; Thun 3 Wil 1900 0; Zurich 4 Young Boys 2.

**SWITZERLAND**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Grasshopper | 21 | 15 | 3 | 3 | 57 | 25 | 48 |
| Basle | 21 | 13 | 5 | 3 | 53 | 24 | 44 |
| Thun | 21 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 33 | 31 | 31 |
| Wil 1900 | 21 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 42 | 41 | 31 |
| Zurich | 21 | 9 | 3 | 9 | 33 | 35 | 30 |
| Young Boys | 21 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 37 | 37 | 29 |
| Servette | 21 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 41 | 33 | 28 |
| Neuchatel X | 21 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 27 | 31 | 28 |
| Lucerne* | 21 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 29 | 35 | 24 |
| St Gallen | 21 | 6 | 5 | 10 | 30 | 47 | 23 |
| Delemont | 21 | 6 | 1 | 14 | 22 | 42 | 19 |
| Aarau | 21 | 4 | 3 | 14 | 17 | 40 | 15 |

**2pts deducted for licence application irregularities (reduced from 4pts on appeal)*

## TURKEY

**Nov 8:** Besiktas 3 Elazigspor 1.
**Nov 9:** Adanaspor 0 Galatasaray 0; Diyarbakirspor 3 Ankaragucu 0; Goztepe 1 Trabzonspor 2; Istanbulspor 1 Gaziantepspor 3.
**Nov 10:** Bursaspor 1 Malatyaspor 1; Genclerbirligi 1 Altay 0; Kocaelispor 2 Denizlispor 1; Samsunspor 1 Fenerbahce 3.
**Nov 16:** Adanaspor 2 Genclerbirligi 7; Ankaragucu 1 Goztepe 0; Galatasaray 2 Trabzonspor 1; Gaziantepspor 2 Diyarbakirspor 0.
**Nov 17:** Altay 0 Besiktas 1; Denizlispor 2 Istanbulspor 1; Elazigspor 3 Samsunspor 1; Malatyaspor 2 Kocaelispor 1; Fenerbahce 7 Bursaspor 1.
**Nov 23:** Diyarbakirspor 0 Denizlispor 0; Istanbulspor 0 Malatyaspor 0; Besiktas 3 Adanaspor 0; Kocaelispor 1 Fenerbahce 2; Trabzonspor 3 Ankaragucu 0.
**Nov 24:** Bursaspor 1 Elazigspor 1; Goztepe 2 Gaziantepspor 1; Genclerbirligi 1 Galatasaray 0; Samsunspor 2 Altay 4.
**Nov 29:** Fenerbahce 2 Istanbulspor 0.
**Nov 30:** Altay 2 Bursaspor 1; Ankaragucu 1 Galatasaray 2; Gaziantepspor 0 Trabzonspor 0; Elazigspor 0 Kocaelispor 1.
**Dec 1:** Besiktas 1 Genclerbirligi 1; Adanaspor 1 Samsunspor 1; Denizlispor 0 Goztepe 0; Malatyaspor 0 Diyarbakirspor 1.

**TURKEY**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Galatasaray | 15 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 25 | 15 | 33 |
| Besiktas | 14 | 9 | 5 | 0 | 24 | 9 | 32 |
| Fenerbahce | 14 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 36 | 15 | 31 |
| Gaziantepspor | 15 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 27 | 14 | 30 |
| Genclerbirligi | 15 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 33 | 17 | 28 |
| Trabzonspor | 15 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 17 | 9 | 26 |
| Malatyaspor | 15 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 24 | 19 | 21 |
| Ankaragucu | 15 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 16 | 19 | 20 |
| Denizlispor | 15 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 17 | 18 | 18 |
| Adanaspor | 15 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 18 | 23 | 16 |
| Samsunspor | 15 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 16 | 25 | 16 |
| Elazigspor | 15 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 17 | 25 | 15 |
| Goztepe | 15 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 17 | 25 | 14 |
| Altay | 15 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 19 | 31 | 14 |
| Bursaspor | 15 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 20 | 30 | 13 |
| Istanbulspor | 15 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 13 | 23 | 13 |
| Diyarbakirspor | 15 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 11 | 22 | 13 |
| Kocaelispor | 15 | 3 | 1 | 11 | 16 | 27 | 10 |

## UKRAINE

**Nov 9:** Tavriya 1 Karpaty 0; Metalurh Z 0 Arsenal 5; Shakhtar 2 Metalist 0; Dynamo 1 Dnipro 0; Volyn-1 2 Chornomorets 2; Kryvbas 2 Metalurh M 0; Vorskla 0 Metalurh D 0.
**Nov 10:** Obolon 2 Poligraftekhnika 2.

**UKRAINE**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Shakhtar | 15 | 12 | 2 | 1 | 31 | 12 | 38 |
| Dnipro | 15 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 24 | 8 | 35 |
| Arsenal | 15 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 38 | 13 | 33 |
| Dynamo | 15 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 33 | 9 | 33 |
| Metalurh D | 15 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 21 | 13 | 28 |
| Volyn-1 | 15 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 21 | 24 | 23 |
| Kryvbas | 15 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 14 | 15 | 18 |
| Tavriya | 15 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 17 | 25 | 17 |
| Metalurh M | 15 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 18 | 22 | 16 |
| Poligraftekhnika | 15 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 16 | 22 | 16 |
| Metalist | 15 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 10 | 20 | 16 |
| Karpaty | 15 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 12 | 16 | 15 |
| Obolon | 15 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 14 | 19 | 14 |
| Vorskla | 15 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 8 | 27 | 11 |
| Metalurh Z | 15 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 9 | 24 | 10 |
| Chornomorets | 15 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 9 | 26 | 8 |

## YUGOSLAVIA

**Nov 8:** Hajduk K 1 Zeleznik 0.
**Nov 9:** Rudar P 1 Rad 2; Vojvodina 4 Partizan 5; OFK 2 Zemun 1; Zeta 2 Mogren 0; Javor 0 Sartid 1; Radnicki O 2 Cukaricki 0; Radnicki N 1 Sutjeska 2.
**Nov 10:** Obilic 0 Red Star 0.
**Nov 16:** Zeleznik 1 Radnicki O 0; Sartid 0 Hajduk K 0; Mogren 2 Javor 1; Zemun 1 Obilic 0; Rudar P 0 Vojvodina 2; Cukaricki 3 Radnicki N 0; Rad 1 Sutjeska 2.
**Nov 17:** Red Star 5 Zeta 1; Partizan 3 OFK 2.
**Nov 22:** Radnicki N 0 Zeleznik 2.
**Nov 23:** Vojvodina 0 Rad 0; OFK 4 Rudar P 1; Obilic 0 Partizan 1; Zeta 2 Zemun 1; Javor 1 Red Star 0; Hajduk K 6 Mogren 0; Radnicki O 0 Sartid 0; Sutjeska 3 Cukaricki 1.
**Nov 30:** Zeleznik 2 Sutjeska 1; Sartid 3 Radnicki N 1; Mogren 0 Radnicki O 1; Red Star 3 Hajduk K 0; Zemun 3 Javor 0; Partizan 3 Zeta 1; Rudar P 1 Obilic 1; Vojvodina 2 OFK 0; Rad 0 Cukaricki 3.
**Dec 4:** Red Star 2 Cukaricki 0.

**YUGOSLAVIA**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partizan | 16 | 13 | 2 | 1 | 44 | 21 | 41 |
| Zeleznik | 16 | 11 | 2 | 3 | 29 | 16 | 35 |
| Red Star | 16 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 34 | 13 | 31 |
| OFK | 16 | 10 | 1 | 5 | 32 | 19 | 31 |
| Sutjeska | 16 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 22 | 16 | 27 |
| Vojvodina | 16 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 28 | 18 | 26 |
| Hajduk K | 16 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 22 | 14 | 25 |
| Sartid | 16 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 25 | 22 | 25 |
| Obilic | 16 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 18 | 15 | 23 |
| Zemun | 16 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 21 | 23 | 23 |
| Zeta | 16 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 17 | 21 | 21 |
| Radnicki O | 16 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 18 | 19 | 19 |
| Javor | 16 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 23 | 18 |
| Cukaricki | 16 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 22 | 29 | 17 |
| Rad | 16 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 15 | 22 | 15 |
| Rudar P | 16 | 2 | 4 | 10 | 10 | 31 | 10 |
| Mogren | 16 | 1 | 4 | 11 | 12 | 34 | 7 |
| Radnicki N | 16 | 1 | 3 | 12 | 10 | 33 | 6 |

# SOUTH AMERICA

## LIBERTADORES CUP

### Preliminary rnd

**Nov 12:** Pumas UNAM (Mex) 3 Estudiantes (Ven) 1.
**Nov 14:** Cruz Azul (Mex) 2 Estudiantes 1.
**Nov 19:** Pumas UNAM 4 Nacional Tachira (Ven) 0.
**Nov 21:** Cruz Azul 4 Nacional Tachira 0.
**Nov 28:** Cruz Azul 0 Pumas UNAM 2; Nacional Tachira 3 Estudiantes 2.

**PRELIMINARY ROUND – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pumas UNAM | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 4 | 13 |
| Cruz Azul | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 11 | 7 | 11 |
| Estudiantes | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 7 |
| Nacional Tachira | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 6 | 16 | 3 |

*Top two qualify for 1st round*

## COPA SUDAMERICA

### Final, 1st leg

*Nov 27 - Medellin*
**Atletico Nacional (Col) 0**
**San Lorenzo (Arg) 4** (Saja pen 2, Michelini 25, Romagnoli 52, Astudillo 67)
**HT:** 0-2. **Ref:** Rezende (Bra)
**Atletico:** Velazquez - Benalcazar, Vanegas, Mosquera, Moreno (Rentería 58), Ramirez, Chara (Castillo 29), Grisales, Morantes, Hurtado, Echeverria (Ricaurte 71).
**San Lorenzo:** Saja - Esquivel, G Rodriguez, Morel Rodriguez, Paredes (Herron 82), Chatruc, Michelini (Medero 79), Zurita, Romagnoli (Luna 77), Acosta, Astudillo.

## ARGENTINA

### OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

**Saturday, November 9**

**Chacarita Juniors 2** (Mignini 23, Pena pen 32)
**Gimnasia LP 0**

***Huracan 0**
**San Lorenzo 4** (Astudillo 9, 45, 52, Michelini 47)
**Match abandoned after 79mins because of crowd trouble among Huracan fans; result stood*

**Independiente 1** (Pusineri 14)
**Union Santa Fe 0**

**Talleres Cordoba 1** (Jimenez og 20)
**Banfield 1** (Colautti 22)

**Sunday, November 10**

**Arsenal 0**
**Boca Juniors 1** (Delgado 17)

**Colon Santa Fe 3** (Morant 22, Carignano 59, Blanco 90)
**Olimpo 0**

**Estudiantes 3** (Pompei 27, Quattrocchi 68, Gelabert 82)
**Newell's Old Boys 3** (Rosales 13, 79, Dominguez 54)

**River Plate 1** (Garcia og 52)
**Lanus 2** (Mannara 18, Bustos Montoya 36)

**Rosario Central 3** (Mandra 14, Figueroa 56, 60)
**Nueva Chicago 2** (Ceballos 47, Amaya 62)

**Velez Sarsfield 0**
**Racing Club 2** (Estevez pen 33, Gonzalez 90)

**Friday, November 15**

**Racing Club 3** (Estevez 53, Millito 56, Arano 63)
**Colon Santa Fe 2** (Carignano 81, 85)

**Saturday, November 16**

**San Lorenzo 1** (Cordone 68)
**Arsenal 2** (Andrizzi 45, Grondona 54)

**Union Santa Fe 3** (Weisheim 12, Capria pen 84, pen 90)
**Rosario Central 2** (Figueroa 1, Talamonti 78)

**Sunday, November 17**

**Banfield 2** (Gonzalez 67, Jimenez 87)
**Independiente 1** (Insua 10)

**Boca Juniors 1** (Delgado 10)
**Talleres Cordoba 0**

**Gimnasia LP 2** (Turienzo 17, Enria 35)
**River Plate 0**

**Lanus 2** (Alessandria 14, Bustos Montoya 22)
**Huracan 0**

**Newell's Old Boys 2** (Nanni og 18, Domizi 61)
**Velez Sarsfield 0**

**Olimpo 2** (Dominguez 28, Tavio 79)
**Chacarita Juniors 0**

**Friday, November 22**

**Talleres Cordoba 1** (Devaca og 19)
**San Lorenzo 1** (Frutos 38)

**Saturday, November 23**

**Arsenal 2** (S Gonzalez pen 30, Alvarez 74)
**Lanus 2** (Iribarren 5, Risso 78)

**Chacarita Juniors 0**
**Racing Club 3** (Milito 62, Bastia 68, Pavlovich 72)

**Estudiantes 1** (Pavone 47)
**Velez Sarsfield 2** (Valdemarin 1, Centurion 73)

**Nueva Chicago 2** (Barbona 3, Weisheim og 72)
**Union Santa Fe 2** (Islas 17, Gonzalez 56)

**Sunday, November 24**

**Colon Santa Fe 3** (Parodi 10, 80, Miglionico 32)
**Newell's Old Boys 1** (Ponzio 43)

**Huracan 0**
**Gimnasia LP 0**

**Independiente 1** (Pusineri 86)
**Boca Juniors 1** (Delgado 38)

**River Plate 2** (Fuertes 3, Cavenaghi 30)
**Olimpo 1** (Bustamante 70)

**Rosario Central 1** (Figueroa 13)
**Banfield 0**

**Tuesday, November 26**

**Nueva Chicago 2** (Couceiro 31, Tilger 53)
**Estudiantes 0**
*Continuation of game abandoned after 48 minutes on November 16 because of floodlight failure*

**Friday, November 29**

**Banfield 2** (Cervera 16, Colautti 21)
**Nueva Chicago 0**

**Gimnasia LP 2** (Choy 3, 17)
**Arsenal 2** (Romero 84, 90)

**Newell's Old Boys 0**
**Chacarita Juniors 0**

**Saturday, November 30**

**Olimpo 2** (Delorte 59, Carrario 71)
**Huracan 0**

**Racing Club 1** (Milito 77)
**River Plate 4** (Aimar 6, Fuertes 45, Cavenaghi 58, 68)

**Union Santa Fe 4** (Weisheim 2, 21, Islas 33, 50)
**Estudiantes 0**

**Velez Sarsfield 1** (Centurion 63)
**Colon Santa Fe 0**

**Sunday, December 1**

**Boca Juniors 3** (Delgado 35, Rodriguez 44, Cascini 67)
**Rosario Central 1** (Rivarola 88)

**Lanus 2** (Carboni 17, Romero 49)
**Talleres Cordoba 2** (Quinteros 43, Bustos 90)

**San Lorenzo 0**
**Independiente 3** (Insua 32, Silvera 49, Pusineri 55)

**ARGENTINA: OPENING – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Independiente | 19 | 13 | 4 | 2 | 48 | 19 | 43 |
| Boca Juniors | 19 | 12 | 4 | 3 | 32 | 15 | 40 |
| River Plate | 19 | 11 | 3 | 5 | 35 | 23 | 36 |
| Chacarita Jnrs | 19 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 19 | 21 | 30 |
| Velez Sarsfield | 19 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 23 | 19 | 28 |
| Racing Club | 19 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 28 | 28 | 28 |
| Colon Santa Fe | 19 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 26 | 26 | 28 |
| Arsenal | 19 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 29 | 25 | 27 |
| San Lorenzo | 19 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 28 | 25 | 27 |
| Newell's OB | 19 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 23 | 22 | 27 |
| Lanus | 19 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 21 | 24 | 26 |
| Banfield | 19 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 21 | 17 | 25 |
| Rosario Central | 19 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 36 | 34 | 25 |
| Union Santa Fe | 19 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 26 | 28 | 23 |
| Talleres Cordoba | 19 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 23 | 27 | 23 |
| Gimnasia LP | 19 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 18 | 24 | 20 |
| Olimpo | 19 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 20 | 30 | 20 |
| Nueva Chicago | 19 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 20 | 29 | 15 |
| Estudiantes | 19 | 4 | 3 | 12 | 21 | 36 | 15 |
| Huracan | 19 | 2 | 5 | 12 | 17 | 42 | 11 |

**TOP GOALSCORERS**
16 Andres Silvera (Independiente)
11 Cesar Carignano (Colon Santa Fe)
10 Marcelo Delgado (Boca Juniors)
10 Luciano Figueroa (Rosario Central)

## BOLIVIA

### CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

**Nov 7:** Iberoamericana 2 Independiente 0.
**Nov 9:** Iberoamericana 3 The Strongest 2.
**Nov 10:** Bolivar 5 San Jose 1; Guabira 2 Real Potosi 0; Independiente 1 Mariscal Braun 1; Oriente 4 Jorge Wilstermann 0; Union Central 3 Blooming 0.
**Nov 13:** Mariscal Braun 1 Real Potosi 2;

The Strongest 7 Union Central 0; Jorge Wilstermann 0 Bolivar 1.
**Nov 14:** Blooming 3 Guabira 1; San Jose 0 Iberoamericana 0.
**Nov 16:** Iberoamericana 1 Jorge Wilstermann 1.
**Nov 17:** Bolivar 2 Independiente 2; Guabira 0 The Strongest 1; Oriente 4 Mariscal Braun 1; Real Potosi 8 Blooming 0; Union Central 0 San Jose 0.
**Nov 20:** Bolivar 5 Oriente 0.
**Nov 21:** Bolivar 0 The Strongest 0; Mariscal Braun 2 Guabira 0.
**Nov 24:** Independiente 0 Iberoamericana 5; Oriente 3 Bolivar 0; San Jose 3 Guabira 2; The Strongest 1 Real Potosi 0; Jorge Wilstermann 0 Union Central 0.
**Nov 28:** Bolivar 7 Jorge Wilstermann 1; Independiente 1 Oriente 0.
**Dec 1:** Blooming 2 The Strongest 0; Real Potosi 3 San Jose 2; Guabira 2 Jorge Wilstermann 2; Union Central 5 Independiente 2; Iberoamericana 4 Oriente 1; Bolivar 4 Mariscal Braun 0.

**BOLIVIA: CLOSING – FINAL***

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bolivar | 22 | 15 | 5 | 2 | 70 | 16 | 50 |
| Oriente | 22 | 13 | 4 | 5 | 59 | 32 | 43 |
| The Strongest | 22 | 10 | 6 | 6 | 46 | 26 | 36 |
| Real Potosi | 22 | 10 | 4 | 8 | 46 | 40 | 34 |
| Blooming | 21 | 10 | 2 | 9 | 40 | 53 | 32 |
| J Wilstermann | 22 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 34 | 35 | 31 |
| Iberoamericana | 22 | 9 | 2 | 11 | 30 | 38 | 29 |
| San Jose | 22 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 32 | 47 | 29 |
| Guabira | 22 | 6 | 5 | 11 | 25 | 45 | 23 |
| Union Central | 22 | 5 | 7 | 10 | 28 | 42 | 22 |
| Independiente | 22 | 4 | 8 | 10 | 26 | 39 | 20 |
| Mariscal Braun | 21 | 4 | 3 | 14 | 21 | 44 | 15 |

**Pending decision on void Mariscal Braun v Blooming tie*

# BRAZIL

## NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

### League stage

**Nov 9:** Vasco da Gama 4 Vitoria 1; Cruzeiro 4 Atletico Paranaense 1; Santos 1 Ponte Preta 3; Gremio 2 Sao Caetano 2; Paysandu 3 Fluminense 2.
**Nov 10:** Botafogo (Rio) 2 Corinthians 1; Portuguesa 1 Flamengo 2; Coritiba 2 Parana 0; Guarani 1 Bahia 1; Juventude 3 Internacional 2; Goias 3 Atletico Mineiro 1.
**Nov 13:** Vasco da Gama 2 Ponte Preta 0; Palmeiras 1 Flamengo 1; Atletico Mineiro 6 Gama 4; Internacional 0 Cruzeiro 1; Coritiba 1 Figueirense 2; Bahia 0 Corinthians 0; Juventude 0 Paysandu 0.
**Nov 14:** Fluminense 2 Portuguesa 0; Sao Paulo 3 Vitoria 2; Parana 1 Gremio 1; Guarani 2 Botafogo (Rio) 0.
**Nov 17:** Flamengo 2 Guarani 2; Botafogo (Rio) 0 Sao Paulo 1; Corinthians 1 Vasco da Gama 1; Portuguesa 2 Bahia 4; Cruzeiro 2 Goias 0; Gremio 1 Atletico Mineiro 0; Atletico Paranaense 4 Juventude 0; Paysandu 0 Internacional 2; Vitoria 4 Palmeiras 3; Ponte Preta 2 Fluminense 3; Figueirense 2 Parana 2; Gama 4 Coritiba 0; Sao Caetano 3 Santos 2.

**NATIONAL: LEAGUE STAGE – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sao Paulo | 25 | 16 | 4 | 5 | 57 | 35 | 52 |
| Sao Caetano | 25 | 14 | 5 | 6 | 42 | 28 | 47 |
| Corinthians | 25 | 12 | 7 | 6 | 37 | 35 | 43 |
| Juventude | 25 | 12 | 5 | 8 | 34 | 30 | 41 |
| Gremio | 25 | 11 | 8 | 6 | 39 | 29 | 41 |
| At Mineiro | 25 | 12 | 4 | 9 | 49 | 43 | 40 |
| Fluminense | 25 | 12 | 4 | 9 | 43 | 46 | 40 |
| Santos | 25 | 11 | 6 | 8 | 46 | 36 | 39 |
| Cruzeiro | 25 | 11 | 6 | 8 | 40 | 39 | 39 |
| Vitoria | 25 | 11 | 4 | 10 | 46 | 42 | 37 |
| Coritiba | 25 | 11 | 3 | 11 | 34 | 34 | 36 |
| Goias | 25 | 10 | 6 | 9 | 42 | 39 | 36 |
| Ponte Preta | 25 | 10 | 4 | 11 | 35 | 34 | 34 |
| At Paranaense | 25 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 39 | 33 | 34 |
| Vasco da Gama | 25 | 10 | 3 | 12 | 37 | 38 | 33 |
| Guarani | 25 | 9 | 6 | 10 | 32 | 35 | 33 |
| Figueirense | 25 | 9 | 4 | 12 | 34 | 43 | 31 |
| Flamengo | 25 | 8 | 6 | 11 | 38 | 39 | 30 |
| Bahia | 25 | 8 | 6 | 11 | 35 | 37 | 30 |
| Paysandu | 25 | 9 | 2 | 14 | 35 | 46 | 29 |
| Internacional | 25 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 36 | 37 | 29 |
| Parana | 25 | 8 | 4 | 13 | 37 | 42 | 28 |
| Portuguesa | 25 | 7 | 6 | 12 | 26 | 40 | 27 |
| Palmeiras | 25 | 6 | 9 | 10 | 37 | 46 | 27 |
| Gama | 25 | 7 | 4 | 14 | 30 | 39 | 25 |
| Botafogo (Rio) | 25 | 6 | 7 | 12 | 24 | 39 | 25 |

### Quarter-finals

*1st legs*
**Nov 24:** Atletico Mineiro 2 Corinthians 6; Fluminense 3 Sao Caetano 0; Gremio 0 Juventude 0; Santos 3 Sao Paulo 1.

*2nd legs*
**Nov 27:** Corinthians 2 Atletico Mineiro 1 *Corinthians 8-3 on agg*; Juventude 0 Gremio 1 *Gremio 1-0 on agg*; Sao Caetano 2 Fluminense 0 *Fluminense 3-2 on agg.*
**Nov 28:** Sao Paulo 1 Santos 2 *Santos 5-2 on agg.*

### Semi-finals

*1st legs*
**Dec 1:** Fluminense 1 Corinthians 0; Santos 3 Gremio 0.

*2nd legs*
**Dec 4:** Corinthians 3 Fluminense 2 *Agg 3-3. Corinthians on higher placing in League stage*; Gremio 1 Santos 0 *Santos 3-1 on agg.*

# CHILE

## CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

### First phase

**Oct 31:** Dep Concepcion 2 Colo Colo 4.
**Nov 9:** Santiago Wanderers 2 Huachipato 1; Palestino 0 Coquimbo Unido 0; U Catolica 2 Audax Italiano 3; Dep Concepcion 1 Cobresal 1.
**Nov 10:** Colo Colo 0 U de Chile 0; Santiago Morning 0 Dep Temuco 0; Rangers 1 San Felipe 1; Cobreloa 1 Union Espanola 0.
**Nov 16:** U Catolica 2 Palestino 0; Cobresal 2 Colo Colo 1; Coquimbo Unido 0 Cobreloa 0.
**Nov 17:** Union Espanola 4 Dep Concepcion 3; Audax Italiano 2 San Felipe 1; Dep Temuco 0 Rangers 0; Huachipato 3 Santiago Morning 0; U de Chile 2 Santiago Wanderers 1.
**Nov 23:** Cobreloa 3 U Catolica 0; Colo Colo 2 Union Espanola 0; Santiago Wanderers 2 Cobresal 3; San Felipe 3 Dep Temuco 2.
**Nov 24:** Dep Concepcion 1 Coquimbo Unido 1; Palestino 3 Audax Italiano 1; Rangers 3 Huachipato 0; Santiago Morning 0 U de Chile 2.

**CLOSING: 1ST PHASE – GROUP A – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Colo Colo | 15 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 21 | 15 | 23 |
| Huachipato | 15 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 22 | 18 | 20 |
| Dep Concepcion | 15 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 20 | 26 | 14 |
| Dep Temuco | 15 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 13 | 32 | 8 |

**GROUP B – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cobreloa | 15 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 33 | 10 | 34 |
| Cobresal | 15 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 23 | 20 | 27 |
| U Catolica | 15 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 28 | 20 | 26 |
| Audax Italiano | 15 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 19 | 22 | 18 |

**GROUP C – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Coquimbo Unido | 15 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 10 | 12 | 17 |
| Palestino | 15 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 14 | 23 | 12 |
| Rangers | 15 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 13 | 28 | 11 |
| Sant Morning | 15 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 11 | 26 | 10 |

**GROUP D – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| U de Chile | 15 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 24 | 12 | 30 |
| Sant Wanderers | 15 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 23 | 18 | 25 |
| Union Espanola | 15 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 24 | 17 | 24 |
| San Felipe | 15 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 21 | 20 | 21 |

*Top three from each group qualified for second phase*

### Second phase – 1st rnd

(1st rnd only – best of two ties; aggregate score irrelevant. If level at one tie each, 2nd leg went to extra time – team scoring golden goal qualified)

*1st legs*
**Nov 26:** Colo Colo 3 Union Espanola 2.
**Nov 27:** Coquimbo Unido 0 U Catolica 0; Huachipato 4 Santiago Wanderers 0; Rangers 1 Cobreloa 2; Dep Concepcion 5 Cobresal 1.
**Nov 28:** Palestino 3 U de Chile 4.

*2nd legs*
**Nov 30:** U Catolica 2 Coquimbo Unido 0; Santiago Wanderers 5 Huachipato 0 (aet; Wanderers on golden goal).
**Dec 1:** Union Espanola 0 Colo Colo 0; Cobreloa 3 Rangers 2; Cobresal 4 Dep Concepcion 1 (aet; Cobresal on golden goal); U de Chile 4 Palestino 2.

*Huachipato and Dep Concepcion also qualified as best losers.*

### Quarter-finals

*1st legs*
**Dec 3:** Santiago Wanderers 0 U Catolica 4.
**Dec 4:** Dep Concepcion 0 Cobreloa 2; Colo Colo 4 Cobresal 1.
**Dec 5:** Huachipato 2 U de Chile 2.

# COLOMBIA

## CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

### First phase

**Nov 7:** Tulua 0 Dep Cali 3.
**Nov 9:** Magdalena 1 America 3.
**Nov 10:** Indep Santa Fe 3 Bucaramanga 2; Tolima 1 Once Caldas 0; At Nacional 2 Tulua 1; Real Cartagena 2 Envigado 0; Dep Cali 2 At Junior 0; Quindio 0 Indep Medellin 1; Pereira 3 At Huila 2; Dep Pasto 1 Millonarios 3.
**Nov 14:** Envigado 1 Dep Cali 1.
**Nov 16:** Envigado 0 Magdalena 1; Once Caldas 2 Indep Santa Fe 0.
**Nov 17:** At Huila 1 Quindio 0; Indep Medellin 3 Dep Cali 0; At Junior 1 Real Cartagena 2; America 2 At Nacional 2; Tulua 2 Tolima 1; Millonarios 2 Pereira 0; Bucaramanga 1 Dep Pasto 0.

**CLOSING: 1ST PHASE – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dep Cali | 22 | 14 | 5 | 3 | 38 | 15 | 47 |
| Dep Pasto | 22 | 11 | 3 | 8 | 32 | 33 | 36 |
| Indep Medellin | 22 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 25 | 16 | 35 |
| America | 22 | 10 | 4 | 8 | 26 | 24 | 34 |
| Bucaramanga | 22 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 34 | 29 | 33 |
| Magdalena | 22 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 25 | 26 | 33 |
| Tolima | 22 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 30 | 26 | 33 |
| At Nacional | 22 | 8 | 8 | 6 | 28 | 21 | 32 |
| Indep Santa Fe | 22 | 8 | 8 | 6 | 35 | 30 | 32 |
| Once Caldas | 22 | 7 | 11 | 4 | 23 | 17 | 32 |
| Pereira | 22 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 28 | 33 | 29 |
| Tulua | 22 | 8 | 4 | 10 | 21 | 27 | 28 |
| Quindio | 22 | 7 | 4 | 11 | 17 | 24 | 25 |
| Real Cartagena | 22 | 7 | 4 | 11 | 20 | 30 | 25 |
| At Huila | 22 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 21 | 29 | 25 |
| Millonarios | 22 | 6 | 5 | 11 | 25 | 31 | 23 |
| At Junior | 22 | 4 | 9 | 9 | 27 | 33 | 21 |
| Envigado | 22 | 3 | 6 | 13 | 16 | 27 | 15 |

*Top eight qualified for play-offs groups*

### Closing play-offs

**Nov 24:** Bucaramanga 1 Indep Medellin 0; Tolima 2 Dep Cali 0; At Nacional 1 Dep Pasto 1; America 2 Magdalena 0.
**Dec 1:** Dep Cali 4 Bucaramanga 0; Indep Medellin 1 Tolima 1; Magdalena 2 At Nacional 0; Dep Pasto 2 America 0.

**CLOSING PLAY-OFFS – GROUP A**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tolima | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Dep Cali | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| Bucaramanga | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| Indep Medellin | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |

**CLOSING PLAY-OFFS – GROUP B**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dep Pasto | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Magdalena | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| America | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| At Nacional | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 |

# ECUADOR

## OVERALL CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS

**Nov 9:** Dep Quito 2 Aucas 2.
**Nov 10:** LDU Quito 1 El Nacional 0; Barcelona 2 Emelec 2.
**Nov 13:** Aucas 1 Barcelona 1; Dep Quito 0 LDU Quito 1; Emelec 1 El Nacional 0.
**Nov 17:** El Nacional 2 Aucas 1; LDU Quito 1 Emelec 2; Barcelona 4 Dep Quito 1.
**Dec 1:** Aucas 1 El Nacional 0; Emelec 3 LDU Quito 0; Dep Quito 0 Barcelona 1.

**ECUADOR – CHAMP'SHIP PLAY-OFFS**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barcelona | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 11 | 6 | 14 | [3] |
| Emelec | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 7 | 14 | [1] |
| El Nacional | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 11 | [2] |
| LDU Quito | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 10 | [1] |
| Aucas | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 8 | 8 | [0] |
| Dep Quito | 6 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 11 | 4 | [3] |

*Bonus points in brackets*

# PARAGUAY

## CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

**Nov 1:** Recoleta 2 Sol de America 0.
**Nov 2:** Sport Colombia 1 San Lorenzo 0.
**Nov 3:** Olimpia 2 Sportivo Luqueno 2; Cerro Porteno 1 Libertad 2; 12 de Octubre 3 Guarani 2.

**PARAGUAY: CLOSING – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12 de Octubre | 18 | 10 | 2 | 6 | 30 | 24 | 32 |
| Libertad | 18 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 33 | 22 | 31 |
| Olimpia | 18 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 33 | 25 | 30 |
| Sportivo Luqueno | 18 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 19 | 17 | 27 |
| Guarani | 18 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 29 | 26 | 26 |
| Sport Colombia | 18 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 23 | 27 | 26 |
| Cerro Porteno | 18 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 20 | 19 | 21 |
| Recoleta | 18 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 17 | 22 | 21 |
| Sol de America | 18 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 15 | 23 | 17 |
| San Lorenzo | 18 | 5 | 2 | 11 | 15 | 29 | 17 |

*12 de Octubre entered overall championship play-off against opening winners Libertad*

## OVERALL CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFF

*1st leg - Nov 10*
**12 de Octubre 1** (Arviniagaldez 16)
**Libertad 2** (G Morinigo 6, Samudio 42)
**HT:** 1-2

*2nd leg - Nov 17*
**Libertad 4** (Samudio pen 51, 73, Pedrinho 71, Bonet 87)
**12 de Octubre 1** (M Morinigo 4)
**HT:** 0-1
*Libertad 6-2 on agg*

# PERU

## CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

**Nov 3:** Sport Boys 2 Melgar 2; Alianza Atletico 4 Dep Wanka 0; Coronel Bolognesi 2 Sporting Cristal 3; Alianza Lima 3 Juan Aurich 0; Coopsol Trujillo 1 Universitario 1; Estudiantes 4 Cienciano 2.
**Nov 9:** Universitario 0 Alianza Atletico 0.
**Nov 10:** Melgar 2 Estudiantes 0; Juan Aurich 1 Coronel Bolognesi 0; Sporting Cristal 0 Alianza Lima 2; Cienciano 3 Sport Boys 1; Dep Wanka 3 Coopsol Trujillo 2.
**Nov 15:** Melgar 2 Sporting Cristal 2.
**Nov 16:** Alianza Atletico 0 Sport Boys 0; Cienciano 3 Juan Aurich 1; Dep Wanka 1 Universitario 3; Coopsol Trujillo 2 Estudiantes 3; Alianza Lima 3 Coronel Bolognesi 0.
**Nov 24:** Sport Boys 2 Coopsol Trujillo 1; Juan Aurich 3 Melgar 1; Estudiantes 0 Alianza Lima 2; Universitario 2 Cienciano 3; Coronel Bolognesi 3 Alianza Atletico 2; Sporting Cristal 2 Dep Wanka 0.
**Dec 1:** Dep Wanka 1 Juan Aurich 1; Estudiantes 1 Coronel Bolognesi 1; Melgar 2 Cienciano 1; Coopsol Trujillo 2 Alianza Atletico 4.

**PERU – CLOSING**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sporting Cristal | 20 | 13 | 6 | 1 | 43 | 12 | 45 |
| Alianza Lima* | 19 | 12 | 4 | 3 | 34 | 15 | 37 |
| Alianza Atletico* | 21 | 11 | 5 | 5 | 32 | 24 | 35 |
| Cienciano | 21 | 10 | 3 | 8 | 46 | 43 | 33 |
| Estudiantes | 21 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 35 | 29 | 29 |
| Dep Wanka | 21 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 29 | 31 | 29 |
| Sport Boys | 20 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 27 | 22 | 28 |
| Coronel Bolognesi | 21 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 24 | 28 | 28 |
| Melgar | 21 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 23 | 32 | 22 |
| Universitario | 20 | 4 | 6 | 10 | 25 | 33 | 18 |
| Juan Aurich | 21 | 4 | 5 | 12 | 15 | 33 | 17 |
| Coopsol Trujillo | 20 | 2 | 4 | 14 | 17 | 48 | 10 |

**3pts deducted for failing to carry out doping tests*

## URUGUAY

### CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

**Nov 9:** Danubio 1 Plaza 0; Dep Maldonado 1 Nacional 4.
**Nov 10:** Wanderers 1 Fenix 2; Defensor 1 Villa Espanola 1.
**Nov 23:** Central Espanol 1 Villa Espanola 1.
**Nov 24:** Dep Maldonado 1 Defensor 2; Plaza 2 Wanderers 2; Danubio 2 Fenix 2; Nacional 2 Penarol 4.
**Nov 30:** Nacional 0 Defensor 2.
**Dec 1:** Wanderers 0 Dep Maldonado 1; Villa Espanola 0 Plaza 3; Penarol 3 Danubio 1; Fenix 3 Central Espanol 4.

**URUGUAY: CLOSING – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Danubio | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 16 | 8 | 20 |
| Penarol* | 9 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 25 | 16 | 19 |
| Fenix | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 24 | 18 | 15 |
| Defensor | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 16 | 12 | 15 |
| Nacional | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 20 | 16 | 14 |
| Plaza | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 16 | 12 | 14 |
| Villa Espanola | 9 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 21 | 7 |
| Wanderers | 9 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 12 | 6 |
| Dep Maldonado | 9 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 8 | 21 | 6 |
| Central Espanol | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 16 | 5 |

**3pts deducted for crowd trouble during a home match in Closing 2001*

## VENEZUELA

### OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

**Nov 10:** Caracas 5 Maracaibo 0; Trujillanos 1 Monagas 3; Dep Tachira 0 Ital-Chacao 1; Mineros Guayana 1 Nacional 2.
**Nov 17:** Carabobo 2 Caracas 1; Ital-Chacao 3 Mineros Guayana 0; Monagas 2 Dep Tachira 0; Maracaibo 1 Trujillanos 1.
**Nov 20:** Estudiantes 0 Carabobo 1.
**Nov 24:** Caracas 1 Trujillanos 0; Dep Tachira 2 Maracaibo 3; Mineros Guayana 1 Monagas 1; Estudiantes 0 Ital-Chacao 0; Carabobo 2 Nacional 0.
**Dec 1:** Nacional 3 Caracas 0; Ital-Chacao 3 Carabobo 0; Monagas 1 Estudiantes 1; Maracaibo 0 Mineros Guayana 0; Trujillanos 4 Dep Tachira 3.

**VENEZUELA – OPENING**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Caracas | 16 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 29 | 17 | 31 |
| Ital-Chacao | 16 | 7 | 7 | 2 | 27 | 15 | 28 |
| Carabobo | 16 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 19 | 16 | 26 |
| Monagas | 16 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 23 | 22 | 23 |
| Estudiantes | 15 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| Dep Tachira | 16 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 22 | 24 | 20 |
| Nacional | 15 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 16 | 19 | 20 |
| Maracaibo | 16 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 17 | 23 | 19 |
| Mineros Guayana | 16 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 16 | 22 | 15 |
| Trujillanos | 16 | 3 | 2 | 11 | 22 | 32 | 11 |

# CENTRAL & NORTH AMERICA

## MEXICO

### OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

**Nov 9:** Pachuca 1 Atlas 1; At Celaya 2 Jaguares 2; San Luis 3 Monterrey 0; Tigres 4 Gallos Blancos 1; Cruz Azul 1 America 1; Necaxa 1 Pumas UNAM 0.
**Nov 10:** Atlante 2 At Morelia 1; Guadalajara 3 Toluca 3; Santos 4 Veracruz 2; Tecos UAG 3 Puebla 2.
**Nov 16:** Toluca 3 San Luis 1; At Celaya 1 Morelia 1; Monterrey 0 Santos 0; Veracruz 0 Necaxa 2; Pumas UNAM 4 Atlante 1; Atlas 1 Guadalajara 2.
**Nov 17:** Gallos Blancos 2 Pachuca 1; Jaguares 1 Cruz Azul 2; Puebla 2 Tigres 1; America 2 Tecos UAG 1.
**Nov 24:** Atlante 4 Veracruz 1; Cruz Azul 1 At Celaya 1; Guadalajara 2 Gallos Blancos 4; Morelia 2 Pumas UNAM 2; Necaxa 2 Monterrey 1; Pachuca 1 Puebla 1; San Luis 1 Atlas 0; Santos 5 Toluca 2; Tecos UAG 2 Jaguares 0; Tigres 0 America 1.

**MEXICO: OPENING – GROUP 1 – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| America | 19 | 13 | 4 | 2 | 34 | 14 | 43 |
| Toluca | 19 | 12 | 5 | 2 | 55 | 25 | 41 |
| Atlas | 19 | 7 | 1 | 11 | 28 | 31 | 22 |
| Puebla | 19 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 23 | 29 | 22 |
| At Celaya | 19 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 24 | 32 | 21 |

**GROUP 2 – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pumas UNAM | 19 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 39 | 35 | 33 |
| Tecos UAG | 19 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 26 | 29 | 29 |
| Tigres | 19 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 32 | 33 | 23 |
| Monterrey | 19 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 18 | 20 | 22 |
| Pachuca | 19 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 21 | 35 | 15 |

**GROUP 3 – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Morelia | 19 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 35 | 23 | 32 |
| Cruz Azul | 19 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 30 | 26 | 28 |
| Necaxa | 19 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 28 | 32 | 26 |
| San Luis | 19 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 31 | 28 | 24 |
| Jaguares | 19 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 19 | 34 | 16 |

**GROUP 4 – FINAL**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Guadalajara | 19 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 28 | 29 | 27 |
| Santos | 19 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 30 | 28 | 26 |
| Atlante | 19 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 31 | 33 | 25 |
| Gallos Blancos | 19 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 28 | 34 | 23 |
| Veracruz | 19 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 30 | 40 | 18 |

*Top two from each group qualified for quarter-finals*

**TOP GOALSCORERS**

| | |
|---|---|
| 29 | Jose Cardozo (Toluca) |
| 13 | Jared Borgetti (Santos) |
| 13 | Alex Fernandez (Morelia) |
| 13 | Sebastian Gonzalez (Atlante) |

# AFRICA

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

### Semi-finals, 2nd legs

**November 15**

**Zamalek (Egy) 2** (H Hassan pen 4, 36)
**TP Mazembe (DRC) 0**
**HT:** 2-0
*Zamalek 3-1 on agg*

**November 17**

**Raja Casablanca (Mor) 4** (Aboucherouane 45, Endene 63, 89, Zoubit 90)
**ASEC Abidjan (IvC) 0**
**HT:** 1-0
*Raja 4-2 on agg*

### Final, 1st leg

*Dec 1 - Casablanca*
**Raja Casablanca 0**
**Zamalek 0**
**Att:** 75,000. **Ref:** Ndoye (Sen)
**Raja:** Chadili - Jrindou, Kacemi, Abdessamad, Rbati, Nater, Masloub, Aboub (Sami 55), Diallo (Zoubit 78), Aboucherouane, Endene.
**Zamalek:** A El-Sayed - Abdelhady, I Hassan, El-Quabbany, El-Tbay, T Abdel Hamied, Abdel Monaem, T El-Sayed, Aboelea, W Abdelattif, H Hassan (Abdel Halim Ali 88).

## CUP-WINNERS CUP

### Final, 1st leg

*Nov 16 - Casablanca*
**Wydad Casablanca (Mor) 1** (Madihi 50)
**Asante Kotoko (Gha) 0**
**HT:** 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Evehe Divine (Cam)
**Wydad:** Jermouni - Khamma, Abrami, Talha, Boujemaa Kessab, Janabi, Raji, Ait Laarif (Oumansour 74), Madihi (Azza 89), El-Anseri, Rahi.
**Kotoko:** Boateng - Yeboah, Owusu, Oduro, Hendricks, Ansah, Ablordey, Mohamed, Duah (F Osei 87), Alhassan, M Osei (Poku 73).

## CAF CUP

### Final, 1st leg

*Nov 8 - Algiers*
**JS Kabylie (Alg) 4** (Amaouche 2, Berguiga 45, 84, Zafour 61)
**Tonnerre Yaounde (Cam) 0**
**HT:** 2-0. **Att:** 80,000. **Ref:** Codjia (Ben)
**JS Kabylie:** Gaouaoui - Rahou, Djouder, Drioueche, Zafour, Belkaid, Bendahmane, Boubrit (Dilmi 26), Amaouche (F Dob 89), Berguiga, M Dob (Meghraoui 76).
**Tonnerre Yaounde:** Kemajou - Moussoungui, Bindzi, Epane, Mani, Olinga, Sesay, Nana Bikoula, Eyoum (Dengoue 66), Etougou (Agbo 51), Doe. *Sent off: Mani 29min.*

### Final, 2nd leg

*Nov 24 - Yaounde*
**Tonnerre Yaounde 1** (Eyoum 33)
**JS Kabylie 0**
**HT:** 1-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Guirat (Tun)
*JS Kabylie 4-1 on agg*
**Tonnerre Yaounde:** Kemajou - Mendouga, Bindzi, Agbo, Teekloh (Dengoue 70), Olinga, Sesay, Nana Bikoula, Eyoum, Doe, Etougou (Etoundi 60).
**JS Kabylie:** Gaouaoui - Raho (Boubrit 59), Djouder, Drioueche, Zafour, Belkaid, Bendahmane, M Dob, F Dob (Haimoudi 79), Berguiga, Amaouche.

# ASIA

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

### WEST ASIA ZONE

### 4th qual rnd, 1st legs

**Nov 12:** Al Jaish (Syr) 1 Al Saad (Qat) 1.
**Nov 13:** Esteghlal (Irn) 1 Neftchi (Uzb) 0; Pakhtakor (Uzb) 3 Al Ahli (UAE) 2.

*Nisa (Tkm) v Al Arabi (Kuw) – Al Arabi withdrew; Nisa walkover*

### 4th qual rnd, 2nd legs

**Nov 26:** Neftchi 2 Esteghlal 1 *Agg 2-2. Esteghlal on away goals.*
**Nov 27:** Al Ahli (UAE) 0 Pakhtakor 1 *Pakhtakor 4-2 on agg*; Al Saad 1 Al Jaish 1 *Agg 2-2. Al Saad 4-1 on pens.*

*Winners qualify for group stage*

### EAST ASIA ZONE

### 3rd qual rnd, 1st legs

**Nov 12:** Churchill Brothers (Ind) 1 Osotspa (Tha) 1; South China (HK) 0 Shimizu S-Pulse (Jap) 5.
**Nov 13:** Shanghai Shenhua (Chn) 3 Geylang United (Sin) 0; Daejeon Citizen (SKo) 6 Mohun Bagan (Ind) 0.

### 3rd qual rnd, 2nd legs

**Nov 26:** Mohun Bagan 1 Daejeon Citizen 2 *Daejeon 8-1 on agg*; Osotspa 6 Churchill Brothers 3 *Osotspa 7-4 on agg.*
**Nov 27:** Geylang United 1 Shanghai Shenhua 2 *Shanghai 5-1 on agg*; Shimizu S-Pulse 3 South China 1 *S-Pulse 8-1 on agg.*

*Winners qualify for group stage*

### Group stage draw

**Group A**

BEC Tero (Tha) - direct qualifiers
Kashima Antlers (Jap) - direct qualifiers
Daejeon Citizen (SKo)
Shanghai Shenhua (Chn)

**Group B**

Dalian Shide (Chn) - direct qualifiers
Seongnam (SKo) - direct qualifiers
Osotspa (Tha)
Shimizu S-Pulse (Jap)

**Group C**

Al Ain (UAE) - direct qualifiers
Al Hilal (Sau) - direct qualifiers
Al Saad (Qat)
Esteghlal (Irn)

**Group D**

Al Talaba (Irq) - direct qualifiers
Pirouzi (Irn) - direct qualifiers
Nisa (Tkm)
Pakhtakor (Uzb)

*Groups played on a single round-robin league format (three games per team) from March 9 to 15, 2003; group winners advance to two-leg semi-finals*

## JAPAN

### SECOND STAGE

**Oct 30:** Kashiwa Reysol 1 Shimizu S-Pulse 0.
**Nov 9:** Tokyo Verdy 1969 3 Consadole Sapporo 2 (aet); Sanfrecce Hiroshima 1 Vissel Kobe 1 (aet); Nagoya Grampus Eight 1 FC Tokyo 0; Shimizu S-Pulse 1 Yokohama F Marinos 2; Gamba Osaka 0 Kashima Antlers 2; JEF United Ichihara 1 Urawa Reds 0.
**Nov 10:** Vegalta Sendai 1 Kyoto Purple Sanga 2; Jubilo Iwata 3 Kashiwa Reysol 2 (aet).
**Nov 16:** Kashima Antlers 0 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2; Yokohama F Marinos 0 JEF United Ichihara 1; Kyoto Purple Sanga 0 Jubilo Iwata 3; FC Tokyo 1 Shimizu S-Pulse 2; Vissel Kobe 2 Vegalta Sendai 2 (aet); Urawa Reds 0 Gamba Osaka 1.
**Nov 17:** Consadole Sapporo 1 Nagoya Grampus Eight 0; Kashiwa Reysol 4 Tokyo Verdy 1969 1.
**Nov 23:** Gamba Osaka 2 Kyoto Purple Sanga 1 (aet); Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2 Kashiwa Reysol 0; JEF United Ichihara 2 Vissel Kobe 0; Vegalta Sendai 2 Consadole Sapporo 0; Jubilo Iwata 1 Tokyo Verdy 1969 0 (aet); Yokohama F Marinos 1 Nagoya Grampus Eight 0.
**Nov 24:** Shimizu S-Pulse 2 Kashima Antlers 1; FC Tokyo 1 Urawa Reds 0 (aet).
**Nov 30:** Consadole Sapporo 5 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 4 (aet); Kashima Antlers 2 FC Tokyo 1; Urawa Reds 0 Yokohama F Marinos 1; Kashiwa Reysol 2 Gamba Osaka 0; Tokyo Verdy 1969 3 Vegalta Sendai 1; Nagoya Grampus Eight 2 Jubilo Iwata 3; Kyoto Purple Sanga 3 JEF United Ichihara 2; Vissel Kobe 3 Shimizu S-Pulse 0.

**JAPAN: SECOND STAGE – FINAL**

| | P | W1 | W2 | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jubilo Iwata | 15 | 9 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 33 | 13 | 35 |
| Gamba Osaka | 15 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 24 | 13 | 27 |
| Kashima Antlers | 15 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 25 | 21 | 26 |
| Tokyo Verdy | 15 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 26 | 19 | 24 |
| FC Tokyo | 15 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 20 | 19 | 22 |
| Yokohama FM | 15 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 16 | 16 | 22 |
| Kyoto PS | 15 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 18 | 24 | 22 |
| Urawa Reds | 15 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 20 | 14 | 21 |
| Kashiwa Reysol | 15 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 18 | 17 | 21 |
| Vissel Kobe | 15 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 21 | 22 | 19 |
| JEF United | 15 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 16 | 19 | 18 |
| Shimizu S-Pulse | 15 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 16 | 24 | 17 |
| Grampus Eight | 15 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 21 | 23 | 16 |
| Sanfrecce H | 15 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 18 | 21 | 16 |
| Vegalta Sendai | 15 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 17 | 30 | 12 |
| Consadole Sapp | 15 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 15 | 29 | 9 |

*W1 – win in 90mins = 3pts; W2 – win in extra-time = 2pts; Draw = 1pt*

# EURO 2004 QUALIFIERS

## Group 1

France, Slovenia, Israel, Cyprus, Malta

07.09.02 .....Cyprus-France .....1-2
07.09.02 .....Slovenia-Malta.....3-0
12.10.02 .....France-Slovenia.....5-0
12.10.02 .....Malta-Israel.....0-2
16.10.02 .....Malta-France .....0-4
20.11.02 .....Cyprus-Malta .....2-1
29.03.03 .....Cyprus-Israel
29.03.03 .....France-Malta
02.04.03 .....Israel-France
02.04.03 .....Slovenia-Cyprus
30.04.03 .....Israel-Cyprus
30.04.03 .....Malta-Slovenia
07.06.03 .....Israel-Slovenia
07.06.03 .....Malta-Cyprus
06.09.03 .....France-Cyprus
06.09.03 .....Slovenia-Israel
10.09.03 .....Israel-Malta
10.09.03 .....Slovenia-France
11.10.03 .....Cyprus-Slovenia
11.10.03 .....France-Israel

**GROUP 1**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| France | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 1 | 9 |
| Israel | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Cyprus | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Slovenia | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| Malta | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 11 | 0 |

## Group 2

Romania, Denmark, Norway, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Luxembourg

07.09.02 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Romania .....0-3
07.09.02 .....Norway-Denmark.....2-2
12.10.02 .....Denmark-Luxembourg.....2-0
12.10.02 .....Romania-Norway .....0-1
16.10.02 .....Luxembourg-Romania .....0-7
16.10.02 .....Norway-Bosnia-Herzegovina .....2-0
29.03.03 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Luxembourg
29.03.03 .....Romania-Denmark
02.04.03 .....Denmark-Bosnia-Herzegovina
02.04.03 .....Luxembourg-Norway
07.06.03 .....Denmark-Norway
07.06.03 .....Romania-Bosnia-Herzegovina
11.06.03 .....Luxembourg-Denmark
11.06.03 .....Norway-Romania
06.09.03 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Norway
06.09.03 .....Romania-Luxembourg
10.09.03 .....Denmark-Romania
10.09.03 .....Luxembourg-Bosnia-Herzegovina
11.10.03 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Denmark
11.10.03 .....Norway-Luxembourg

**GROUP 2**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Norway | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| Romania | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 6 |
| Denmark | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| Bosnia-Herz | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Luxembourg | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 0 |

## Group 3

Czech Republic, Holland, Austria, Belarus, Moldova

07.09.02 .....Austria-Moldova.....2-0
07.09.02 .....Holland-Belarus .....3-0
12.10.02 .....Belarus-Austria .....0-2
12.10.02 .....Moldova-Czech Republic .....0-2
16.10.02 .....Austria-Holland .....0-3
16.10.02 .....Czech Republic-Belarus.....2-0
29.03.03 .....Belarus-Moldova
29.03.03 .....Holland-Czech Republic
02.04.03 .....Czech Republic-Austria
02.04.03 .....Moldova-Holland
07.06.03 .....Belarus-Holland
07.06.03 .....Moldova-Austria
11.06.03 .....Austria-Belarus
11.06.03 .....Czech Republic-Moldova
06.09.03 .....Belarus-Czech Republic
06.09.03 .....Holland-Austria
10.09.03 .....Czech Republic-Holland
10.09.03 .....Moldova-Belarus
11.10.03 .....Austria-Czech Republic
11.10.03 .....Holland-Moldova

**GROUP 3**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Holland | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| Czech Republic | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 6 |
| Austria | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| Moldova | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Belarus | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 0 |

## Group 4

Sweden, Poland, Hungary, Latvia, San Marino

07.09.02 .....Latvia-Sweden.....0-0
07.09.02 .....San Marino-Poland .....0-2
12.10.02 .....Poland-Latvia.....0-1
12.10.02 .....Sweden-Hungary .....1-1
16.10.02 .....Hungary-San Marino.....3-0
20.11.02 .....San Marino-Latvia.....0-1
29.03.03 .....Poland-Hungary
02.04.03 .....Hungary-Sweden
02.04.03 .....Poland-San Marino
30.04.03 .....Latvia-San Marino
07.06.03 .....Hungary-Latvia
07.06.03 .....San Marino-Sweden
11.06.03 .....San Marino-Hungary
11.06.03 .....Sweden-Poland
06.09.03 .....Latvia-Poland
06.09.03 .....Sweden-San Marino
10.09.03 .....Latvia-Hungary
10.09.03 .....Poland-Sweden
11.10.03 .....Hungary-Poland
11.10.03 .....Sweden-Latvia

**GROUP 4**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Latvia | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 7 |
| Hungary | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 4 |
| Poland | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Sweden | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| San Marino | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 0 |

## Group 5

Germany, Scotland, Iceland, Lithuania, Faroe Islands

07.09.02 .....Faroe Islands-Scotland.....2-2
07.09.02 .....Lithuania-Germany .....0-2
12.10.02 .....Iceland-Scotland.....0-2
12.10.02 .....Lithuania-Faroe Islands .....2-0
16.10.02 .....Germany-Faroe Islands.....2-1
16.10.02 .....Iceland-Lithuania .....3-0
29.03.03 .....Germany-Lithuania
29.03.03 .....Scotland-Iceland
02.04.03 .....Lithuania-Scotland
07.06.03 .....Iceland-Faroe Islands
07.06.03 .....Scotland-Germany
11.06.03 .....Faroe Islands-Germany
11.06.03 .....Lithuania-Iceland
20.08.03 .....Faroe Islands-Iceland
06.09.03 .....Iceland-Germany
06.09.03 .....Scotland-Faroe Islands
10.09.03 .....Faroe Islands-Lithuania
10.09.03 .....Germany-Scotland
11.10.03 .....Germany-Iceland
11.10.03 .....Scotland-Lithuania

**GROUP 5**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Germany | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 6 |
| Scotland | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| Iceland | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Lithuania | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 3 |
| Faroe Islands | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 |

## Group 6

Spain, Ukraine, Greece, Northern Ireland, Armenia

07.09.02 .....Armenia-Ukraine.....2-2
07.09.02 .....Greece-Spain .....0-2
12.10.02 .....Spain-Northern Ireland .....3-0
12.10.02 .....Ukraine-Greece .....2-0
16.10.02 .....Greece-Armenia.....2-0
16.10.02 .....Northern Ireland-Ukraine .....0-0
29.03.03 .....Armenia-Northern Ireland
29.03.03 .....Ukraine-Spain
02.04.03 .....Northern Ireland-Greece
02.04.03 .....Spain-Armenia
07.06.03 .....Spain-Greece
07.06.03 .....Ukraine-Armenia
11.06.03 .....Greece-Ukraine
11.06.03 .....Northern Ireland-Spain
06.09.03 .....Armenia-Greece
06.09.03 .....Ukraine-Northern Ireland
10.09.03 .....Northern Ireland-Armenia
10.09.03 .....Spain-Ukraine
11.10.03 .....Armenia-Spain
11.10.03 .....Greece-Northern Ireland

**GROUP 6**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Spain | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 6 |
| Ukraine | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 5 |
| Greece | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| Armenia | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| Northern Ireland | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 |

## Group 7

Turkey, England, Slovakia, Macedonia, Liechtenstein

07.09.02 .....Turkey-Slovakia.....3-0
08.09.02 .....Liechtenstein-Macedonia .....1-1
12.10.02 .....Macedonia-Turkey.....1-2
12.10.02 .....Slovakia-England .....1-2
16.10.02 .....England-Macedonia.....2-2
16.10.02 .....Turkey-Liechtenstein .....5-0
29.03.03 .....Liechtenstein-England
29.03.03 .....Macedonia-Slovakia
02.04.03 .....England-Turkey
02.04.03 .....Slovakia-Liechtenstein
07.06.03 .....Macedonia-Liechtenstein
07.06.03 .....Slovakia-Turkey
11.06.03 .....England-Slovakia
11.06.03 .....Turkey-Macedonia
06.09.03 .....Liechtenstein-Turkey
06.09.03 .....Macedonia-England
10.09.03 .....England-Liechtenstein
10.09.03 .....Slovakia-Macedonia
11.10.03 .....Liechtenstein-Slovakia
11.10.03 .....Turkey-England

**GROUP 7**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Turkey | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 1 | 9 |
| England | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Macedonia | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 2 |
| Liechtenstein | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 1 |
| Slovakia | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 0 |

## Group 8

Belgium, Croatia, Bulgaria, Estonia, Andorra

07.09.02 .....Belgium-Bulgaria.....0-2
07.09.02 .....Croatia-Estonia .....0-0
12.10.02 .....Andorra-Belgium.....0-1
12.10.02 .....Bulgaria-Croatia.....2-0
16.10.02 .....Bulgaria-Andorra .....2-1
16.10.02 .....Estonia-Belgium.....0-1
29.03.03 .....Croatia-Belgium
02.04.03 .....Croatia-Andorra
02.04.03 .....Estonia-Bulgaria
30.04.03 .....Andorra-Estonia
07.06.03 .....Bulgaria-Belgium
07.06.03 .....Estonia-Andorra
11.06.03 .....Belgium-Andorra
11.06.03 .....Estonia-Croatia
06.09.03 .....Andorra-Croatia
06.09.03 .....Bulgaria-Estonia
10.09.03 .....Andorra-Bulgaria
10.09.03 .....Belgium-Croatia
11.10.03 .....Belgium-Estonia
11.10.03 .....Croatia-Bulgaria

**GROUP 8**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bulgaria | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 9 |
| Belgium | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 6 |
| Estonia | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Croatia | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Andorra | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 |

## Group 9

Italy, Yugoslavia, Finland, Wales, Azerbaijan

07.09.02 .....Azerbaijan-Italy.....0-2
07.09.02 .....Finland-Wales .....0-2
12.10.02 .....Finland-Azerbaijan.....3-0
12.10.02 .....Italy-Yugoslavia .....1-1
16.10.02 .....Wales-Italy .....2-1
16.10.02 .....Yugoslavia-Finland .....2-0
20.11.02 .....Azerbaijan-Wales.....0-2
12.02.03 .....Yugoslavia-Azerbaijan
29.03.03 .....Italy-Finland
29.03.03 .....Wales-Azerbaijan
02.04.03 .....Yugoslavia-Wales
07.06.03 .....Finland-Yugoslavia
11.06.03 .....Azerbaijan-Yugoslavia
11.06.03 .....Finland-Italy
06.09.03 .....Azerbaijan-Finland
06.09.03 .....Italy-Wales
10.09.03 .....Wales-Finland
10.09.03 .....Yugoslavia-Italy
11.10.03 .....Italy-Azerbaijan
11.10.03 .....Wales-Yugoslavia

**GROUP 9**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wales | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 9 |
| Yugoslavia | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Italy | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Finland | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Azerbaijan | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 0 |

## Group 10

Rep Ireland, Russia, Switzerland, Georgia, Albania

07.09.02 .....Russia-Rep Ireland.....4-2
08.09.02 .....Switzerland-Georgia .....4-1
12.10.02 .....Albania-Switzerland.....1-1
16.10.02 .....Rep Ireland-Switzerland .....1-2
16.10.02 .....Russia-Albania.....4-1
29.03.03 .....Albania-Russia
29.03.03 .....Georgia-Rep Ireland
02.04.03 .....Albania-Rep Ireland
02.04.03 .....Georgia-Switzerland
30.04.03 .....Georgia-Russia
07.06.03 .....Rep Ireland-Albania
07.06.03 .....Switzerland-Russia
11.06.03 .....Rep Ireland-Georgia
11.06.03 .....Switzerland-Albania
06.09.03 .....Georgia-Albania
06.09.03 .....Rep Ireland-Russia
10.09.03 .....Albania-Georgia
10.09.03 .....Russia-Switzerland
11.10.03 .....Russia-Georgia
11.10.03 .....Switzerland-Rep Ireland

**GROUP 10**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Switzerland | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 7 |
| Russia | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 3 | 6 |
| Albania | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| Rep Ireland | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 0 |
| Georgia | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 |

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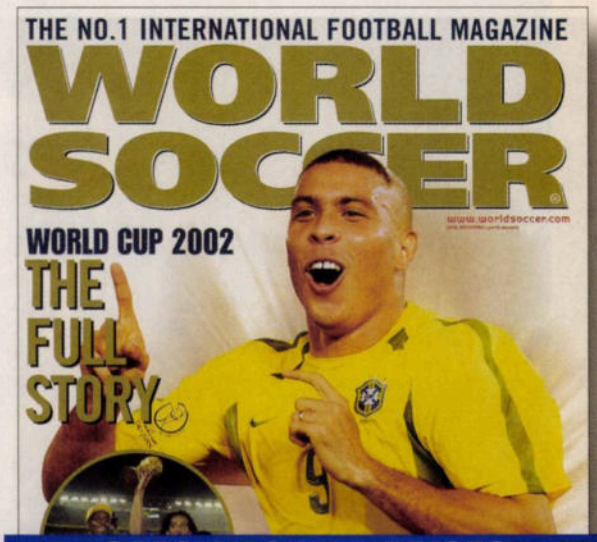


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In the firing line...Luis Figo picks his way through the debris and abuse at a hostile Camp Nou to take a corner for Real Madrid

# Flying pigs and lame excuses

Sid Lowe reports on an extraordinary reception for Luis Figo in Barcelona

HELL hath no fury like a woman scorned, but that's nothing compared to a stadium full of Barcelona fans when Luis Figo is in town. The Portuguese winger made his second Madrid appearance in a Camp Nou *derbi* and – not for the first time – events on the pitch, where it finished 0-0, were overshadowed by the reception the jilted Barça fans reserved for their very own 'Judas'.

Figo's Camp Nou welcome was all the 'warmer' for Ronaldo's late withdrawal because of flu. The Brazilian striker – who has scored just three times so far – woke from his matchday siesta with what Real's sporting director Jorge Valdano described as "a fever like a dinosaur".

Some didn't believe a word of it. That flu should 'enable' Ronaldo to miss two of the most difficult trips of his life – to Camp Nou and San Siro – was just too convenient. The forward, said one cynical pundit, scores highly on the 'cowardometer'.

But, whether a "dinosaur" or "coward", one thing is for sure: Ronaldo's no-show wrested much of the spice from the *derbi* after a week of fervid speculation about how Barça fans would receive their other ex-icon.

Ronaldo's absence also left Figo alone in the line of fire. At first, his reception did not seem so fierce as October 2000, despite the stadium announcer providing a special boo-inducing pause after reading out "10, Luis Figo". The impression, though, didn't last long. Mid-way through the second half referee Medina Cantalejo was forced to suspend the game for 16 minutes because persistent missile-throwing left Figo unable to take a corner.

The missiles included golf balls, cans, lighters, mobile phones and plastic bottles. Some players claimed to have seen a knife, and television pictures showed a glass whisky bottle, but it was newspapers *Marca* and *As* that highlighted the most surprising of all – a flying pig. Their Sunday editions boasted photos of a real suckling pig's head.

Barça director Gabriel Masfurrol refused to believe in flying pigs, wrongly accusing the Madrid press of making it up. Colleague Jose Maria Minguella agreed. "We don't eat suckling pig here," he said, 'proving' Barça fans weren't responsible.

Aware of the worldwide media attention (with China the latest country to sign up for the *Gran Clasico*), the press was in uproar. It was, said *Marca*, "The derby of shame", while *As* led on "Bronx Nou", and *El Periodico de Catalunya* declared "every corner a Vietnam". The pro-Barça dailies *El Mundo Deportivo* and *Sport* were equally embarrassed but gave events a different spin, reproducing the words of Barcelona coach Louis Van Gaal and president Joan Gaspart, who called Figo "a provoker".

Figo's crime? Being on the pitch. And having the temerity to take the corners – something he was ordered not to do last time.

"I'm not trying to justify events," Gaspart said, trying to justify events, "but I won't accept people coming to my house to provoke." Figo's incredulous response said it all: "I don't know if Gaspart is joking."

It is true Figo took his time. It is also true that he stopped to pick up a bottle, smiled, and gave a thumbs-up. But accusing him of provoking events is absurd, particularly in light of Barcelona's failure to even erect nets. It is not as if they were unaware of what was likely to happen.

The club now face a Camp Nou closure (one to three games if the committee decide that events were 'grave'; between four and a year if they decide on 'very grave'). Inevitably, there are different views – while the Madrid press insisted that Camp Nou be shut, the Catalan sports dailies defended Barça.

All the fuss has made Figo a hero at Real Madrid. He scooped *As's* Man of the Match award with a display described as "perfect". It was an exaggeration but Figo's performance was impressive – not least mentally. No one could accuse him, as they did two years ago, of going missing in action, and he nearly scored the most appropriate goal of his career – straight from a corner.

But what little on-field action there was came mainly from Barcelona, who have now gone 20 years without losing a home League *derbi*. Barça had a Patrick Kluivert goal wrongly ruled out and their most impressive player was Argentinian playmaker Juan Roman Riquelme. Nonetheless, Riquelme was replaced by Javier Saviola with 10 minutes to go – which annoyed Barcelona's fans and surprised Madrid striker Raul, who turned to his marker, Michael Reiziger, and remarked: "What a substitution!"

That Barça, despite their pressure, didn't win owed much to Madrid centre-back Francisco Pavon and goalkeeper Iker Casillas. But it was a disappointing match, one that reflected Real Madrid and Barcelona's respective starts to the season. After all, it was fifth against 10th.

Barcelona have made their worst start for 30 years, while Madrid left for the World Club Cup in Yokohama in seventh (with a game in hand), having won just two matches in 12 – a rather fortunate 3-2 victory against Rayo Vallecano and a 4-0 Copa del Rey thumping of the Second Division's bottom club, Real Oviedo.

After 12 matches, Madrid were level with city rivals Atletico, who passed up the chance to cap an impressive run by rising to the Champions League berths when

they lost 1-0 to Osasuna in Pamplona.

It's a very different story at Real Sociedad and Mallorca. Having struggled to fight off relegation for the past three seasons, *la Real* led the table after 12 games and there is every chance of them staying among the leading pack. With Xabi Alonso at the heart of midfield and wingers Javier De Pedro and Valeri Karpin providing chances for Nihat Kahveci and Darko Kovacevic (six and nine goals respectively), Raynald Denoueix's side are the League's most impressive attacking force.

Nor have Real Sociedad been found out by the big clubs. They were the better side in draws with Deportivo La Coruna (1-1) and Real Madrid (0-0), and defeated Barcelona 2-1 – a scoreline that would have been greater but for Barcelona keeper Roberto Bonano.

Mallorca are the season's other surprise. Final-day relegation survivors last season, they lost their opening three matches this term but then went on a nine-game unbeaten run. This lifted them to second, a point ahead of Valencia – who have lost their spark without the injured Pablo Aimar – and two above Celta Vigo.

Much of Mallorca's success is due to Gregorio Manzano, the football manager turned psychological genius who insists: "Football is a state of mind. If you are positive you can achieve great things."

Nor is this empty rhetoric. Manzano is a qualified teacher with a degree in psychology and his calm, dialogue-based approach dragged Rayo Vallecano from rock bottom to within five points of the UEFA Cup last season. His methods are unorthodox – during one training session last year he made his squad play blindfolded to enhance their on-field communication and increase their trust in each other – but nobody can deny that they work.

Perhaps the best demonstration of his side's mental toughness came in La Coruna. Despite trailing to an early Roy Makaay goal, having Ariel Ibagaza sent off seven minutes later and losing captain Javier Olaizola to injury, Mallorca turned it around before half-time, leading 2-1 until 20 minutes from time.

They had dominated Deportivo, with Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o giving a prodigious physical display. Only an untypical mistake by midfielder Harold Lozano, playing at centre-back to cover for Olaizola, denied Mallorca victory. Dutchman Makaay stole in to score his 10th League goal of the season to add to the eight he had scored in the Champions League – a figure that enabled him to overtake Bebeto as the Galicians' all-time top European scorer.

Finally, there was good news for former Spain coach Jose Antonio Camacho, who has joined Benfica.

Record breaker...Depor's Roy Makaay plunders another Champions League goal

## Pro-file Ruben Baraja

# Showtime for Valencia's slow-burning midfield dynamo

**RUBEN BARAJA has hardly enjoyed a meteoric rise to the top. It has taken the 27-year-old midfielder the best part of a decade to make the transition from promising youngster at unfashionable Valladolid to one of the hottest properties in Spanish football at champions Valencia.**

Baraja, by nature powerful and direct, has evolved into a true all-rounder. He can play with both feet, is a neat passer, has a venomous shot and the uncanny knack of scoring when it matters.

Things started well enough for Baraja. He made his debut for local club Valladolid at 17, earning the attention of Atletico Madrid, who snapped him up three seasons later, though he had to wait a further three years before making the first team. As luck would have it, Baraja's breakthrough in 1999 coincided with Atletico's worst season in 66 years, which ended with relegation. But he was one of the few players to emerge with any credit from a dire season.

Meanwhile, Valencia were on the lookout to fill the gap left by the departures of Javier Farinos and Gerard Lopez to Internazionale and Barcelona. Atletico were reluctant to let Baraja go, but had little choice when Valencia stumped up £7million, a club record. He immediately carved a niche in Hector Cuper's workmanlike midfield, earning a call-up to the national team, where he has remained.

His first season at the Mestalla ended in the by now customary disappointment – Valencia lost their second successive Champions League Final, this time on penalties to Bayern Munich. Baraja's bad luck continued when a knee injury ruled him out of the first four months of last season. He returned in mid-December, only to be sidelined again for nine games.

The midfielder did not reappear until March, when Valencia were vying with Real Madrid for the title. The timing was once again decisive. His presence freed Argentinian Pablo Aimar for more creative duties, while his fresh legs and determination brought him six goals in the last eight games of the season. He finished top scorer and the key player in the run-in to Valencia's first title in 31 years.

This term, Baraja has been in potent form as Valencia have stormed to the second phase of the Champions League. "I have learned to value the good times in football," he says. "I am stronger mentally and physically and I try to make the most of all games I play."

It may have been a long and arduous route, but Baraja is determined to enjoy the view from the top while it lasts.

*Simon Baskett*

### Fact file

**Club** Valencia
**Country** Spain
**Born** July 11, 1975, in Valladolid
**Previous clubs** Valladolid, Atletico Madrid
**International debut** October 2000, v Israel
**International caps** 17 (5 goals)
**Honours** Spanish League 2002 (Valencia)

Sickening...Cagliari 'fan' Massimo Meloni flees after his assault on Messina keeper Emanuele Manitta

# The usual suspects

**Familiar problems have threatened to take the shine off calcio's recent renaissance. Paddy Agnew reports**

NOTWITHSTANDING the depressingly familiar cocktail of fan violence and intemperate post-match verbosity from club coaches and owners alike, by early December the Italian season was already beginning to look like one of the best for some years.

Pride of place this month would normally go to the achievements at home and abroad of Juventus, Milan, Lazio et al. Yet, not for the first time, the question of violence, in and around football, dominated many considerations.

Frustrated by a growing wave of incidents involving players and fans, the Italian Players' Association (AIC) called a symbolic strike for the second weekend in December, asking players to delay the start of all that weekend's action in Serie A, B, C and C1 by 15 minutes. The final straw was an incident involving Napoli defender Francesco Baldini.

After Napoli had drawn 0-0 in their home Serie B game against Palermo, Baldini was followed home by disgruntled fans, who first set about beating him up (he received minor head and leg injuries) and then tried to destroy his car.

Other players involved in similar incidents this season include Roma's French defender Jonathan Zebina (attacked by fans outside Roma's Trigoria training ground in September and saved only thanks to the prompt intervention of a policeman), Como's Nicola Corrent (attacked by fans after training in late November), and Salernitana's Domenico Botticella, Alfonso Camorani and Carlo Cherubini (all injured when Catania fans smashed the windows of the team bus after Catania had beaten Salernitana 2-1 in October).

Probably the most serious incident of all, however, came during Cagliari's Serie B home game against Messina on November 17. That match had to be suspended in the 82nd minute following a pitch invasion by a solitary fan, who attacked Messina keeper Emanuele Manitta from behind, hitting him so hard that he was knocked unconscious. At the time, need one add, Cagliari were losing 1-0.

To make matters worse, the assailant took advantage of the fact that all attention was focused on the action down at the other end of the field to climb the stadium barrier, hit the goalkeeper and then make a successful escape back into the terraces. Thanks to TV footage and photographic evidence, the 'fan', Massimo Meloni, was subsequently identified, arrested and banned from attending matches for five years.

All of that was bad but, in many ways, it was much worse to hear Cagliari owner-president Massimo Cellino complain after the match that he and his club had been subjected to blackmail attempts by extremist elements among their fans. The basic message from the ultras was a request for money, otherwise they would organise pitch invasions and other disturbances that would cost the club dear at subsequent federation disciplinary proceedings.

Meloni, meanwhile, turned out to be a former drug addict with a criminal record, having been sentenced for petty theft and recycling stolen goods. However, he categorically denied involvement in any attempt to blackmail Cellino.

While everyone was quick to condemn the Cagliari incident, a number of commentators also linked it to the growing climate of contestation manifested by those who should, in theory, know better – coaches and club owners themselves.

The day before the Cagliari incident, no less a personage than Roma's vastly experienced coach Fabio Capello dangerously let his post-match frustration get the better of him when he threatened to pack his bags and go and work abroad if refereeing standards in Italy did not improve. Capello was enraged by one or two calls during Roma's 2-2 top-of-the-table draw with Inter at the Olympic stadium.

The FootBiz show these days requires plenty of post-curtain theatrics and noise from the director and the impresario as well as from the actors. So Capello shouted and so, too, did the Roma fans, who took to the streets, protesting outside the Italian federation offices in Rome against what they believe to be an anti-Roma bias.

The Roma fans are helped in that belief by the many polemical statements made almost every season by Roma owner Franco Sensi, who, on more than one occasion, has questioned the fairness of refereeing. Sensi, Capello and the Roma fans all believe Roma have been made to pay for Sensi's ongoing battles with the federation and League authorities.

In particular, they argue, Sensi's complaints about the conflict of interests of Football League president Adriano Galliani (who also doubles as Milan acting president) have not helped Roma. "It seems that, given that our president got involved in certain battles and did not win them, then they [the Football League] want to make us pay for it," commented Capello in mid-November.

Two weeks earlier, Como president Enrico Preziosi had been less than diplomatic after his side had lost 1-0 in Bologna, with the deciding goal coming from a 75th-minute penalty, converted by evergreen 34-year-old Beppe Signori.

"Referee Trentalange handled the game in a shameful, scandalous and shitty manner. We have suffered an unprecedented violence here," said Preziosi, before going on to complain about Trentalange's "mafioso" attitude, as well as to threaten to pull out of football altogether.

Preziosi, Sensi, Capello and friends are entitled to their sense of

frustration. Yet they and others badly need a crash course in the art of losing with dignity and good sportsmanship.

Como may well have suffered from bad refereeing decisions. Yet it was not a referee but rather owner Preziosi who opted to turn the promoted club upside down this summer by buying in 18 new players as they prepared for their return to Serie A. Perhaps the side's difficulties this season have something to do with that questionable tactic.

Nor, by the way, was it a referee who sacked coach Loris Dominissini, replacing him with the highly experienced Eugenio Fascetti after Como had been beaten 3-0 in Perugia on the last Sunday in November. Dominissini was the third Serie A coach to get his marching orders this season, following in the unhappy footsteps of Torino's

Sounding off...Fabio Capello

Giancarlo Camolese (replaced by Renzo Ulivieri) and Reggina's Bortolo Mutti (replaced by Gigi Di Canio).

Roma's own inadequacies, mainly of the defensive variety, were shown up not just in that 2-2 draw with Inter but also in subsequent defeats by Parma (3-0 away) and by English champions Arsenal (3-1 at the Olympic stadium in the Champions League second phase). Just to rub salt in the wound, Roma followed up by throwing away a 2-0 lead against old rivals Juventus, again at home. The defensive shortcomings of Frenchman Zebina, Brazilian Aldair and Christian Panucci, the fact that age has finally caught up with Argentina striker Gabriel Batistuta, the loss of form of Vincenzo Montella and the immaturity of boy wonder Antonio Cassano have all weighed much more heavily in the balance of this Roma season so far than refereeing decisions.

While Roma have complained, cross-town rivals Lazio have got on with it to surprise just about everyone by going to the top of Serie A (see feature on coach Roberto Mancini, page 22). That was despite a financial crisis which has led to the club officially being put up for sale.

While Roma struggled in the Champions League, the other Italian clubs all continued in positive fashion as they entered the second phase. Juve's 2-2 draw away to Deportivo La Coruna, Inter's 4-1 away win against Newcastle and Milan's 1-0 home win over Real Madrid all helped further the growing sensation that this season an Italian club will be in the Champions League shake-up right down to the wire, thus atoning for recent disappointments.

One final thought on three Milan comebacks. The first concerned Ukraine striker Andrii Shevchenko, whose winning goal against Real Madrid was good enough to earn him an invitation to lunch next day with club owner and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and Ukraine state President Leonid Kutchma, who just happened to be in Rome on an official visit.

The other comebacks were made by two 33-year-olds, Argentinian Fernando Redondo and Brazilian Leonardo. Two and a half seasons after being bought by Milan, and after a knee injury that required three operations in two years, Redondo finally made his first official appearance for his 'new' club when playing for the first half of Milan's 1-1 Italian Cup second round, first leg draw with Ancona in early December.

Fittingly, the other comeback kid, Leonardo, marked his return to Milan by scoring his side's equaliser, thus justifying the surprise October decision by acting president Galliani to offer him a contract. Here's hoping we see more of both Redondo and Leonardo in the near future.

## Pro-file Mauro Camoranesi

# Italo-Argentine winger wowing the fans at Juve

DURING his childhood, Juventus right-sided midfield star Mauro Camoranesi lived in the same street in the suburbs of Buenos Aires as Argentina's top conjurer. It would appear that some of that magic rubbed off on the footballer-to-be.

Since joining Juventus from Verona in the close season, the diminutive Camoranesi has proved that old-fashioned wing play is still alive and well, constantly leaving defenders trailing in his wake with his ball tricks, acceleration and balance. Not only that, but the 26-year-old invariably selects the right cross when he does hit the byline and scores goals too.

"I don't think there can be any doubt that Juve got it absolutely right with Camoranesi," declared ex-Milan and Lazio coach Alberto Zaccheroni recently. "He has everything. He's quick, skilful, brave, has vision, and because of his low centre of gravity, he's a devil to stop."

Predictably, Camoranesi's exciting start to his Juve career has boosted his chances of becoming an international, but assuming he is selected, it may not be for his native Argentina. Mindful that the winger has dual nationality, Italy boss Giovanni Trapattoni has revealed he may call him up before long. "It is a little incredible," says Camoranesi. "I had hoped for a call from the Argentina coach. Of course, I want to play for the country where I was born and raised, but nothing has happened yet. I will not deny that it would be an honour to wear the famous Italian shirt. Italy has given me so much."

Camoranesi is not the typical Argentinian export to Europe, having never represented his homeland at any level or even competed in the Argentinian top flight. In fact, he began his professional career at Mexican club Santos Laguna aged 19, and even though he managed 16 goals on returning to Argentina the following year with Second Division Banfield, the marked lack of interest in him from big clubs led him to return to Mexico. At his new side, Cruz Azul, his artistry and 32 goals in 80 League games turned him into a crowd favourite.

He left for Verona in summer 2000 and quickly adapted to Serie A. However, Camoranesi was a rare shining light in a mediocre team and when Verona were relegated last term, Juventus arrived to recruit the wide-man in exchange for £3million plus a half-stake in attacker Max Vieri, younger brother of Christian.

More good business from shrewd Juventus general manager Luciano Moggi. No wonder his arch-rival, Roma president Franco Sensi, despises him so.

*Nick Bidwell*

### Fact file

**Club** Juventus
**Country** Argentina/Italy
**Born** October 4, 1976, in Tandil, Argentina
**Previous clubs** Gimnasia y Esgrima Tandil, Jorge Newbery Tandil, Aldosivi Mar Del Plata, Santos Laguna (Mex), Atletico Banfield, Cruz Azul (Mex), Verona

# Bayern bounce back

The wounded Bavarians have regained their winning ways, writes Nick Bidwell

**Bundle of fun...Pizarro is swamped by his jubilant team-mates after hitting the winner against Dortmund**

DECIDEDLY groggy after their shock Champions League elimination and a dismal performance during a 2-0 Bundesliga defeat at Werder Bremen, Bayern Munich have picked themselves off the canvas to land a flurry of punches of their own.

A 2-1 home win over Hannover in the second round of the German Cup had the same effect as a whiff of smelling salts, and there followed three straight League wins, the most important by far being the 2-1 victory over title rivals Borussia Dortmund at the Olympiastadion.

Three points for the *Dortmunder* in Munich would have meant them leapfrogging Bayern to the top of the table. Instead, the only pleasure for the visiting fans on a rainswept Bavarian afternoon was the chance to gloat at Bayern's European woes.

And yet all had started so well for Dortmund. They took the lead after seven minutes when Czech forward Jan Koller unwittingly deflected a drive from Brazilian strike-partner Marcio Amoroso past Oliver Kahn. With Dortmund winning the midfield battle early on, they looked a good bet for their first victory on Bayern turf since 1992.

However, ill-discipline undid Borussia's initial good work. Unable to contain Hasan Salihamidzic without tripping or obstructing him, Dortmund's Brazilian left-back Dede was withdrawn by coach Matthias Sammer before he was sent off. But on the stroke of half-time Germany midfielder Torsten Frings was dismissed for two bookable offences – the first a wild challenge on Bixente Lizarazu, the second a less clear-cut foul on Michael Ballack.

It proved the turning point of the game. Making the most of their numerical advantage, Bayern piled on the pressure in the second period and clinched victory with a double goalscoring burst around the hour mark. Paraguayan attacker Roque Santa Cruz curled in a fine shot from just inside the box, then Peruvian Claudio Pizarro prodded the ball over the line after a persistent run by right-back Willy Sagnol.

Certain that Bayern's second goal was offside – TV pictures subsequently proved that it was perfectly valid – Dortmund keeper Jens Lehmann sprinted to the halfway line to confront referee Michael Weiner. Not one of his shrewdest moves. A second yellow card was thrust in his direction and he trudged off to the dressing-room.

The game was now effectively over. Not only were Dortmund down to nine men, but they were also forced to put Koller in goal because Sammer had already made three substitutions. Even so, the Czech showed a surprising amount of agility and bravery during his 25 minutes between the posts.

Dortmund's long and loud post-match complaints about referee Weiner were not simply sour grapes. The expulsions of Frings and Lehmann were a little harsh, while Bayern striker Giovane Elber should arguably have received a red rather than a yellow card for a dangerous, late challenge on the prone Lehmann. Nevertheless, the result was a fair one. Bayern played the most constructive football and dominated for long periods.

It was a large shot of relief for under-fire coach Ottmar Hitzfeld. Though constantly backed by the Bavarian club's managerial Holy Trinity of Franz Beckenbauer, Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and Uli Hoeness, Hitzfeld had been feeling the heat of intense media criticism for the first time in his career. The three points from the clash of the German titans made his position much more comfortable.

"We've always stood right by Ottmar Hitzfeld," declared Hoeness. "There was never a question of him leaving. If it's a crisis to be five points clear at the top of the table, I'd like to have one every year."

As Bayern seek to salvage their season by winning the Bundesliga, the surprise packets have been Werder Bremen. They moved into a Champions League qualifying spot following home wins over Bayern and bottom club Kaiserslautern (5-3) and an excellent 1-0 victory at Hertha Berlin.

Werder are a mass of contradictions. They have one of the most porous defences in the Bundesliga, and keeper Pascal Borel – who stepped in when Frank Rost moved to Schalke in the summer – has been shaky. Yet the midfield trio of Hungarian Krisztian Lisztes, new French schemer Johan Micoud and German Fabian Ernst combine creativity and strength, while the Greco-Brazilian striking duo of Angelos Haristeas and Ailton is awash with goals.

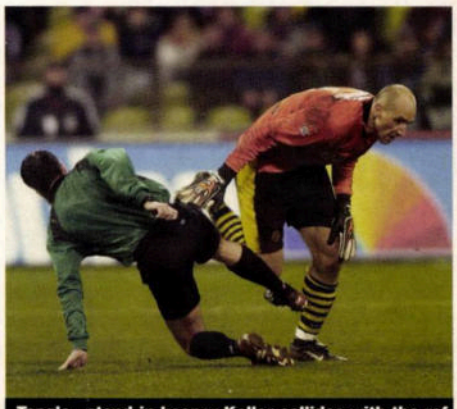
The chunky, explosive Ailton is the key to Werder maintaining their momentum. When his world is right, there are few more potent strikers in the country. However, the problem is his abrupt mood swings. One moment he can fire on all cylinders, the next he is sulking or demanding a transfer.

Coach Tomas Schaaf and sports director Klaus Allofs know they have to handle him with care. Fortunately, Ailton is the only diva in the Werder ranks, and despite their lofty position, public pronouncements have been kept low key.

Schaaf insists his team generally lack experience, while Ernst treads a similarly realistic line. "If we continue to play as well as we have been, anything is possible," says the midfielder. "In normal circumstances, Bayern are a lot stronger than us, but we can compete with the rest of the Bundesliga."

Meanwhile, Germany could have few complaints after being outgunned 3-1 by arch-rivals Holland in a friendly in Gelsenkirchen, in which Hannover's Fredi Bobic marked his first *Nationalmannschaft* appearance for four and a half years with a goal. A last-minute replacement for the injured Carsten Jancker, 31-year-old Bobic rarely convinced in his previous 19 games for Germany and was frozen out of the Dortmund first team last season. But he has shown a lot of character to fight back. He led the line most capably during a loan spell at Bolton earlier this year and since joining a struggling Hannover side early this term, he has proved one of the most in-form marksmen in the Bundesliga. Indeed, his eight goals in his first 10 starts have revived the club's hopes of survival.

"I played a part in Bolton staying up last season and hope I can do the same for Hannover," says Bobic. "It's nice to be thought of as a sort of saviour. A successful fight against relegation can be better than a title win."



**Tangle...stand-in keeper Koller collides with the ref**

# Anelka: sparks fly again

No to France...Nicolas Anelka

WILL Nicolas Anelka play for France again? It doesn't look like it, not as long as Jacques Santini is in charge.

Anelka watchers may of late have been amused by the declarations both by the player himself and his latest manager, Kevin Keegan of Manchester City, that he was a new man, all those past shenanigans and stand-offs far behind him.

No more endless stirring up by his notorious brothers-cum-agents. Clear blue or Sky Blue water ahead. Then, of course, it all started happening.

First, Anelka kicked up a fuss about Keegan refusing him permission to play in a charity game in Paris. Then Santini really put the cat among the pigeons when he omitted Anelka from the squad to meet Yugoslavia at the Stade de France in a November friendly.

This clearly rubbed salt into wounds that had yet to heal, for Anelka, not surprisingly, was bitterly upset when Santini's predecessor, Roger Lemerre, omitted him from his World Cup squad.

Santini had his reasons for the exclusion. Brilliant though Anelka can still surely be, France, by contrast with the 1998 World Cup-winning squad, have an abundance of centre-forwards in the shape of Thierry Henry, David Trezeguet, Steve Marlet, Sidney Govou and Djibril Cisse.

But the coach should surely have anticipated what would happen when, suddenly short of fit strikers, he belatedly summoned Anelka. Who in their senses would ever have expected Anelka to agree?

As soon as he angrily refused, Santini, no psychologist, and the French federation demanded that the English FA suspend Anelka – secondary picketing, if you like. But the FA refused on the grounds that the call to Anelka had come too late for such disciplinary action to be taken.

There are no winners in all this. Certainly not Anelka, who would plainly like to play for his country again but in all probability won't, for at least the foreseeable future. Certainly not Santini, who has made a thoroughly ham-fisted job of the displeasing affair.

And those, Keegan among them, who believed that all would be sweetness and light at Maine Road, that the new, improved Anelka would sweetly stay there and score goals indefinitely, may now be wondering whether they have been too sanguine.

It is all very well for Anelka, as he has, to advance myriad excuses over why things went wrong at Arsenal, Real Madrid and Paris Saint-Germain, not to mention his disappointment at failing to extend his spell at Liverpool. But the fact is he is essentially a rolling stone who seems doomed or fated to roll on throughout his career.

Should Eric Carriere have figured at the World Cup? The two goals he scored against Yugoslavia in France's 3-0 victory suggest it was wrong of Lemerre not to use him; and doubtless they somewhat compensated him for the fact that Lyon, whom he joined from a disappointed Nantes in 2001, didn't make the cut for the second phase of the Champions League.

The 2-1 win over Inter at San Siro and the pulsating 3-3 draw with the Italians at home suggested Lyon could have held their own in the second stage. But home and away defeats against Ajax proved their undoing.

Carriere says: "We don't feel inferior to certain great European clubs. We just have to learn how to seize the chances to qualify."

*Andre Duclos*

## Pro-file Benjamin Mwaruwari

# Zimbabwean whose goals for Auxerre speak volumes

DESPITE barely speaking a word of French, Auxerre's new Zimbabwean striker Benjamin Mwaruwari has had no trouble communicating this season, making himself understood in the language of goals.

Stepping in for Auxerre's brilliant but injured young front man Djibril Cisse at the start of the season, Mwaruwari, or Benjani as he is now commonly known in France, proved a more than adequate replacement.

His pace, muscle and technical ability alarmed many an opposing defence, while seven goals in his first seven League games for Auxerre – most struck with his venomous right foot – showed why he had been nicknamed 'The Gravedigger' during a prolific two-year spell at South Africa's Jomo Cosmos.

"When I arrived at Auxerre, I knew they had a lot of good players and that it would be very difficult to play regularly," says the 24-year-old. "But things have just taken off. I think I was successful because no one knew me. I also know that when Djibril Cisse is fit again I will be back on the bench."

He ought not to bet on it. Although Auxerre coach Guy Roux has employed a 4-5-1 system for the past two seasons, with Cisse as the lone spearhead, the emergence of Benjani may well prompt a permanent switch to a two-man strikeforce. Certainly, the duo combined well during the second half of Auxerre's home Champions League tie against Borussia Dortmund, with Cisse leading the line and half-time substitute Benjani operating slightly deeper. Indeed, it was the latter who scored the only goal, rifling in a low drive.

It's just as well that Roux is more flexible than he used to be. The word is he was not quite convinced by Benjani during a trial period last summer, but was pushed to take him on by a number of his first-teamers. "In training we immediately saw that Benjani had something special," said central defender Jean-Alain Boumsong.

Mwaruwari's first European club were Grasshopper, whom he joined on a one-year loan from Jomo Cosmos shortly after being voted South Africa's Player of the Year for 2001. However, he was a virtual spectator for much of the 2001-02 Swiss League campaign. "My problem was that the coach who brought me in [Hans-Peter Zaugg] was quickly sacked, and his successor [Marcel Koller] never had any confidence in me," says Benjani.

But former Grasshopper technical director Erwin Zogg was so sure of Benjani he became his agent and persuaded Roux to give him a trial.

"I know I must improve in all areas of my game," says Benjani. "But I'm sure I'm at the right club to become a better player."

*Nick Bidwell*

### Fact file

**Club** Auxerre (Fra)
**Country** Zimbabwe
**Born** August 13, 1978, in Harare
**Previous clubs** Lulu Rovers, Air Zimbabwe Jets, Jomo Cosmos (SAf), Grasshopper (Swi)
**International debut** July 1998, v Malawi
**International caps** 20 (7 goals)
**Honours** Cosafa Castle Cup 2000

What's going on?...Venables' problems are mounting

# Hell for Tel at Leeds

Has Venables taken on more than he can handle, asks Gavin Hamilton

THE EXPECTATIONS were high last summer when Terry Venables was unveiled as the new manager of Leeds. His appointment was billed as a chance for the high-spending club to get back among the Champions League contenders. Moreover, here was a chance for Venables to leave the cosy world of TV punditry and get back to the basics of coaching.

Even those of us who believe that Venables' reputation is not matched by his record were prepared to give him the benefit of the doubt. But five months on, things look very different.

Defeat by Charlton in early December was Leeds' sixth home loss in eight matches. It left them in 16th place, three points off the relegation zone and 12 points away from the Champions League placings.

The club's debts are estimated to be £70 million. After the summer sale of Rio Ferdinand and Robbie Keane, further player departures are expected in the January transfer window. Even then, it is not clear whether Venables will be given any cash to bring in new blood. "It's very difficult to do one without the other," he acknowledged.

In recent weeks, Venables has been hinting at a possible exit. "The fact is the results are not good enough yet," he said. "You've got to look at it and see how it can improve, and if you have to make a decision at some stage on that, you have to do it."

Leeds cannot afford to sack Venables; they have yet to agree a settlement with previous manager David O'Leary. But Venables' problems are likely to get worse before they get better.

Chairman Peter Ridsdale told shareholders that popular midfielder David Batty, who has been sidelined by Venables, could no longer "operate effectively" in the Premier League because of injury. That prompted Batty to consider legal action against the club.

Harry Kewell and Mark Viduka have been using the Australian media to criticise the situation at Elland Road, with Viduka claiming that Kewell has "barely" spoken to him in the past two years.

Former player Peter Lorimer fuelled talk of player unrest when he spoke of a "cancer" in the dressing-room.

"They call them 'the whisperers' in football. They are like a cancer. They try to spread unrest," he said. "What Terry has to do is make a list of who he wants to get rid of. It is better to pay up their contracts and get them out."

All of the above begs the question of why Venables has landed himself in this situation?

In his defence, Leeds have been hit by a string of injuries to key players, notably Robbie Fowler, Olivier Dacourt, Dominic Matteo, Lucas Radebe, Danny Mills, Paul Okon and Nick Barmby.

With the benefit of hindsight, it is clear that Leeds' problems began with the acquittal on serious assault charges of Lee Bowyer and Jonathan Woodgate and the publication of O'Leary's book, controversially titled *Leeds United on Trial*.

Since then, internal tensions have hampered the club, with constant speculation about which players would be shipped out.

The problems of Venables at Leeds are in stark contrast to the situation at Everton under David Moyes. By early December, they were in fifth place, level on points with Manchester United.

The emergence of teenager Wayne Rooney has garnered most of the headlines, but Rooney has largely been restricted to substitute appearances. The real star of Everton's season has been Moyes, the modest 39-year-old who joined the Merseysiders from Preston towards the end of last season and prevented a slide into the First Division.

With limited funds available for forays into the transfer market, Moyes has built a side based on defensive solidity and brought out the best in strikers Kevin Campbell and Tomasz Radzinski.

Across Stanley Park, Liverpool hit a rocky patch in November culminating in a home defeat by Manchester United. Polish goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek committed one of the blunders of the season, letting a defensive back-header slip through his hands and legs to enable Diego Forlan to tap in United's opening goal. He will now be replaced as Liverpool No 1 by the highly rated Chris Kirkland.

United manager Alex Ferguson hailed the Anfield result as a turning point in his team's season after the disappointment of losing the Manchester derby following a series of defensive blunders. But he also hinted that changes are afoot among the playing staff.

"We always try to improve," he said. "Maybe it is time to assess that the nucleus of the team has been together for seven to nine years – it's a long time."

## SCOTLAND

### Progress halted by Portugal

THE new optimism surrounding the national team following wins over Canada and Iceland was dented when Berti Vogts' men were comprehensively outplayed by an impressive Portuguese team on a rain-soaked night in Braga.

Portugal could even afford Luis Figo to miss a penalty as they swept the Scots aside 2-0 in the November friendly. Vogts now has to rethink his plans as he prepares for the spring Euro 2004 double-header against the Icelanders and Lithuania.

Scotland's failure to produce players who can compare with heroes of the past such as Denis Law, Billy Bremner, Graeme Souness and Kenny Dalglish has left Vogts with a monumental task in his efforts to restore the nation's footballing

Splash...Scotland's Crawford in Braga

fortunes. The fact Scottish fans have been celebrating wins over modest opposition like Iceland and Canada provides an indication of how far the country's credibility has fallen.

Meanwhile, Vogts has been drawn into some verbal tussles with both Rangers manager Alex McLeish and his Celtic counterpart Martin O'Neill over player call-ups, and the consequent disharmony has done little to assist the German.

In the League, Wales striker John Hartson forced himself into O'Neill's plans with some prolific goalscoring performances that have put pressure on first-choice front men Henrik Larsson and Chris Sutton.

*Alan Fairley*

## WALES

### Weakened side still strong enough

WELSH football is on a high following the national team's third straight win in the Euro 2004 qualifiers, this time a 2-0 victory in Azerbaijan with a severely weakened side.

The old club versus country argument re-emerged before the game, with Birmingham and Newcastle to the forefront of the clubs showing reluctance in releasing players. True, the date was earmarked for friendlies in the international calendar, but the fact that this was a competitive game did not seem to matter to some Premiership clubs. There is a wide belief in Wales that if England had been in the same situation, the clubs would have shown a different attitude.

In the League, unbeaten Total Network Solutions were top by three points from champions Barry and had a game in hand. However, TNS lost in the Welsh Cup, going out 1-0 to Caersws in the third round. Bottom club Llanelli have appointed former Wales winger Leighton James as coach for his second spell in charge.

*Mel Thomas*

## N IRELAND

### Glens keep winning

THE Glentoran juggernaut continued to roll on, the 2-0 win at Newry Town at the end of November their ninth victory in a row. Roy Coyle's team led faltering Portadown by six points after 14 games.

Scotsman Jim O'Rourke lasted just five weeks as coach at struggling Newry before being replaced by a former club goalscoring hero, Ollie Ralph.

Distillery boss Paul Kirk has decided to stay with his club after all, having apparently agreed to take up a full-time appointment as a development officer with the Irish Football Association.

Kirk has been given a new three-year contract by the Lisburn club, whom he has built up into a respected member of the Premier Division despite a crippling lack of resources.

*Roy Kitson*

# Pro-file Simon Davies

## Tottenham's Welsh wing wizard with Euro 2004 in his sights

WHILE many English Premier League clubs look abroad for new talent nowadays, Tottenham are still investing a lot of time and cash in seeking out the best young players from the domestic lower divisions. The capture of Simon Davies, along with Matthew Etherington (now an England Under-21), from Peterborough in January 2000 is yielding the biggest rewards.

A star on the right flank, 23-year-old Davies has taken his excellent club form on to the international stage with Wales, and was a key figure in the 2-1 Euro 2004 defeat of Italy in October.

"Peterborough was a fantastic place to start my career," says Davies. "Barry Fry is a great manager to work with and he looked after Matthew and me. He gave us the chance to settle into the game and didn't stand in our way when we got a good move. Tottenham are going places and I'm delighted to be a part of it."

A stylish mover on the ball, Davies has the pace, skill and confidence to take on the best, yet it has taken him a couple of years to firmly establish himself as a star at White Hart Lane, time other clubs are not willing to afford.

"Some Premiership clubs do not look at grooming young players, but that's not the case at Tottenham," he says. "I started last season on the bench and felt I did quite well when the first-team chance came. I owe this club and our manager, Glenn Hoddle, a lot."

As for Wales, Davies has even been putting Ryan Giggs in the shade. After a sensational goal against Croatia in an August friendly and adding another against Finland in Helsinki, his crowning glory came against the Italians in Cardiff as he put his country on the way to victory by opening the scoring. "It had been a long time since a Wales side went into a match like that, against one of the biggest nations in the world, thinking we could win," reflects Davies, who was part of the side that made it three wins out of three in the Euro 2004 qualifiers against Azerbaijan in November. "But that's the vibe in the squad now. Our manager, Mark Hughes, has done a great job. We all believe this is our chance to qualify for a major championship. This is still a young side, so maybe the 2006 World Cup will be our time, but we have put ourselves in pole position to qualify for Euro 2004."

The finals in Portugal would undoubtedly be a better competition if the fresh and exciting Wales side complete their qualification story – and Davies can stake his claim to be the most exciting of them all.

*Kevin Palmer*

### Fact file

**Club** Tottenham (Eng)
**Country** Wales
**Born** October 23, 1979, in Haverfordwest
**Previous club** Peterborough (Eng)
**International debut** March 2001, v Ukraine
**International caps** 12 (3 goals)

# Sonck hits Mechelen for six

Nicholas Harling on how the Genk forward equalled the First Division individual scoring record

## BELGIUM

WESLEY SONCK enhanced his reputation as one of the most sought-after strikers in Europe when he equalled the Belgian First Division individual scoring record by hitting six goals in Genk's remarkable 9-0 win over Mechelen.

The feat had been achieved on three previous occasions – Marc Wilmots in Standard Liege's 8-4 win over Gent in 1993, Zvonko Varga in FC Liege's 6-1 victory over Beerschot in 1989, and Erwin Vandenbergh in Lierse's 7-0 romp over Hasselt in 1980. Coincidentally, Genk's three other goals against Mechelen came from Kevin Vandenbergh, the son of Erwin.

The victory went some way towards compensating Genk for their Champions League exit. However, they certainly did not disgrace themselves, despite finishing bottom of Group C, ending with a creditable 1-1 draw at home to Real Madrid.

Belgium's other Champions League departees, Club Brugge, will still be rueing missed chances to qualify for the next stage. They lost at home to Barcelona, when the Catalan side had already qualified, and then away to Lokomotiv Moscow, thus allowing the Russians to reach the second phase at their expense. In the League, Brugge's unbeaten run was ended in emphatic style, losing 5-2 at St Truiden in their 13th game.

Lommel sacked coach Harm Van Veldhoven and installed Jos Heyligen, who started with a 1-0 win over Standard Liege before losing the next three games. Charleroi, who were still without a League win, dismissed Etienne Delangre after less than six months in charge. His replacement is former player Dante Brogno, but he suffered a 6-1 home trouncing by Germinal Beerschot in his first League game in charge.

There were two major shocks in the Cup – Gent were beaten 3-1 after extra-time at Fourth Division Turnhout, while Beveren lost 2-1 at Third Division Bocholt.

Six-shooter...Wesley Sonck

Innocent...Van den Herik

## HOLLAND

### Van den Herik cleared of fraud

FEYENOORD chairman Jorien Van den Herik has been cleared of tax fraud relating to the signing of three players in the mid-1990s. According to the public prosecutor, Van den Herik and Feyenoord had failed to record part of the money spent on the players in a bid to avoid a tax charged on transfer fees. However, a Rotterdam court declared the chairman and the club innocent.

Meanwhile, Ajax have been handed a tax bill of £3.5million relating to the transfers of Shota Arveladze and Michael Laudrup in 1997. This new financial blow, coming in the wake of recently reported losses of £17.2m for last year, means that the club will almost certainly be forced to sell some of their best players.

Their cause was helped by reaching the second group phase of the Champions League, though after losing their final first phase game 2-1 at home to Inter they qualified only because Lyon were held to a draw by Rosenborg.

PSV and Feyenoord both finished bottom of their groups to miss out even on a UEFA Cup place. However, Vitesse did make it through to the third round of the latter competition by defeating Werder Bremen 5-4 on aggregate.

Feyenoord at least recovered some ground in the League, winning 2-1 away to PSV to pull themselves closer to the Eindhoven club and Ajax at the top.

Co Adriaanse, who was sacked by Ajax last year, has replaced Henk Van Stee at AZ. The latter was offered another job at the Alkmaar club but refused after feeling he had been treated unfairly.

The national team finished the year in style by defeating arch-rivals Germany 3-1 in a friendly in Gelsenkirchen. Dick Advocaat remains unbeaten as coach after seven matches in charge.

*Klaas-Jan Droppert*

## SWITZERLAND

### More good news for Kuhn

NATIONAL coach Kobi Kuhn received another major boost in his search for attacking talent when it emerged that current League top scorer Milaim Rama had applied for a Swiss passport. The 25-year-old Kosovan-Albanian, a refugee from the war-torn region of the former Yugoslavia, has hit 13 goals in 20 games for Thun having scored 25 in 35 games last term as the team secured promotion. Only Basle's Christian Gimenez has kept pace in the top-flight scoring chart.

News of Rama's passport application came after 17-year-old Young Boys striker Johan Vonlanthen agreed to play for Switzerland's Under-21s. The dual national had previously refused because he did not want to jeopardise his chances of playing for Colombia.

Vonlanthen, meanwhile, is joining PSV Eindhoven in 2004 on a four-year contract. Another 17-year-old, Servette defender Philippe Senderos, will move to Real Madrid after finishing his studies in 2004. Senderos led the Swiss Under-17s to the European title in May.

Thun were assured of their place in the eight-team League championship play-offs with two games to spare, along with Grasshopper, Basle, Wil 1900 and Young Boys. Zurich, Servette, and Neuchatel Xamax confirmed their places the following week, consigning Lucerne to the relegation/promotion play-offs along with St Gallen, Delemont and Aarau. Lucerne had had their chances of making the championship play-offs prolonged after the League decided to halve a four-point penalty for a licensing infringement.

Grasshopper's hopes of a place in the UEFA Cup third round were dashed when substitute Mladen Petric's last-minute own goal enabled PAOK Salonika to draw 1-1 on the night after a 2-1 first leg victory.

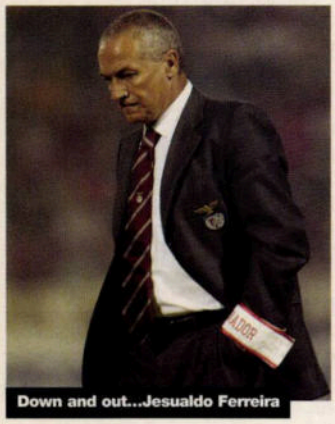
*Ivar von Rulach*

## PORTUGAL

### Ferreira fired after Cup debacle

BENFICA coach Jesualdo Ferreira has been sacked after his team suffered a humiliating 1-0 Cup defeat by Second Division B side Gondomar. It proved the final straw for the board following the club's indifferent League form.

Ferreira's position had come under pressure after a 2-1 defeat at FC Porto on October 20. Subsequent results included a 1-1 draw at home to bottom-placed Academica and a 2-1 defeat at Varzim.



Down and out...Jesualdo Ferreira

Benfica turned to Jose Antonio Camacho, who resigned as Spain's national coach after the defeat by South Korea at the World Cup. "I'm here to win," said Camacho, who is Benfica's 11th coach in seven years, on his arrival in Lisbon.

Boavista boss Jaime Pacheco also suffered a Cup humiliation when his side were thrashed 4-0 by Santa Clara, bottom of the First Division. However, although he offered his resignation, the board insisted that he stay on. Boavista have had a dismal League season and were only 15th after 11 games, four points off the bottom.

There was further bad news for Boavista when captain and Portugal defender Jorge Silva was ruled out for the rest of the season after tearing cruciate knee ligaments.

FC Porto continued to lead the table, holding a two-point lead over Sporting Lisbon with a game in hand, with troubled Benfica a further two points back.

*Alberto da Silva*

## REP OF IRELAND

### Caretaker Givens experiments

CARETAKER national team manager Don Givens put out an experimental side for November's goalless friendly against Greece in Athens.

The former Republic forward, who is also the Under-21s boss, gave Manchester United centre-back John O'Shea his first start, and did something former manager Mick McCarthy failed to do in his 68 games in charge – cap a player from the Republic's Eircom League. In fact, Bohemians striker Glen Crowe became the first domestic League player since 1986 to appear for the senior national side.

The FA hopes to have the new manager in place by January 1, with his first game in charge a friendly against Scotland on February 12.

Bohemians' have had their League lead cut in recent weeks, but remain favourites to lift the title. Their 15-game unbeaten run was ended in early November when losing 2-1 at home to Dublin neighbours Shelbourne.

*Sean Creedon*

## AUSTRIA

### Herzog celebrates 100th cap

DESPITE a 1-0 defeat by Norway in a friendly in Vienna, champagne corks were popping in the Austrian dressing-room as playmaker Andy Herzog celebrated his 100th cap.

"I'm immensely proud that I'm the first Austrian to play 100 times for the national team," declared the Rapid Wien midfielder. "It is a fantastic achievement and I've been excited about it for some time."

The Austrian championship is shaping up to be a procession, with Austria Wien going into the winter break no fewer than 13 points ahead of Sturm Graz and newly promoted Pasching.

The final fortnight of the autumn campaign was notable for goalscoring exploits. Bregenz's Belgian striker Axel Lawaree scored all his team's goals in the 5-1 crushing of Salzburg, while Rapid's 6-3 win at Bregenz was the largest aggregate score in a top-flight game since Austria Wien thumped DSV Alpine in August 1991.

*Nick Bidwell*

# Pro-file Andy Van der Meyde

## Young winger going into overdrive for Ajax

WITH Ajax making losses of some £17 million last season, Andy Van der Meyde is just one of a talented crop of young Amsterdammers who could be sold off to reduce the deficit.

Only last spring, the winger signed a contract extension until summer 2005, but few in Holland would be surprised if the 23-year-old was the first out of the door.

Yet another product of Ajax's celebrated youth system, Van der Meyde has never concealed his long-term plans to emigrate to the English Premier League, and, significantly, it would seem his relationship with Ajax coach Ronald Koeman is far from harmonious.

Koeman has publicly admonished the Holland winger for being too individualistic at times and, in an attempt to rectify the problem, recently switched him from his usual right-wing spot to the opposite flank. "When Van der Meyde plays on the left he keeps the ball better and doesn't look to make big plays all the time," explained Koeman. He was proved right. Stationed on the left against Heerenveen in November, Van der Meyde gave one of his best displays of the season, scoring twice in a 3-0 victory.

Then again, he is probably used to criticism. Early in his career, some of the Ajax coaching staff thought he did not have a strong enough personality to make the grade. While they gave him top marks for speed, technical prowess and crossing, questions were raised about his lack of confidence and consistency.

After making his debut in October 1997, events seemed to bear out the widely-held view. He could not make the breakthrough permanent and in the next 20 months played only four more times. But Van der Meyde came of age when farmed out to Twente Enschede for the 1999-2000 campaign. He was picked regularly by coach Fred Rutten and played with the sort of purpose he had rarely shown at Ajax.

"My year at Twente was great for my development," says Van der Meyde. "I learnt a lot and gained valuable experience of playing in the top flight. I went back to Ajax a more complete player."

On his recall, he quickly established himself as a first-team mainstay and last season improved still further, making a vital contribution to Ajax's League and Cup double. He also scored on his full debut for the national team in a friendly win over the United States in May.

Van der Meyde obviously has much more character and drive than he was once given credit for.

*Nick Bidwell*

### Fact file

**Club** Ajax
**Country** Holland
**Born** September 30, 1979, in Arnhem
**Previous club** Vitesse 1892
**International debut** May 2002, v United States
**International caps** 3 (1 goal)
**Honours** Dutch League 1998, 2002; Dutch Cup 2002

Point of style...Arsene Wenger

## Wenger under fire

Why does Brian Glanville seem to dislike Arsene Wenger so? The Arsenal manager may feel the average English-raised player does not suit the style he wants to play but that is no reason to castigate him. I believe his players have been harshly treated by referees and the media in general.

Wenger's dealings in the transfer market have held up under scrutiny and over time the likes of Pires, Wiltord *et al* have shown their worth.

***Oluwole P Ajibola, by e-mail***

*Gavin Hamilton replies: Glanville is quite right to castigate Wenger for his 'hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil' approach to referees. His refusal to acknowledge his team's disciplinary shortcomings has at times been laughable. Wenger has achieved a great deal at Highbury, but Arsenal's poor disciplinary record speaks for itself.*

## The case for a Club World Championship

I was surprised at your suggestion FIFA should ditch its plans for the Club World Championship. While there is no doubt South American football is at its lowest ebb – due to the economic crisis and reckless spending by clubs – the status of club football elsewhere in the world has never been higher.

Despite all the problems that blight the continent, Africa has managed to successfully stage a competitive Champions League for the past few years, and Asia – with professional leagues in Japan, China and Korea – plans to follow suit.

With these developments the claims for holding a true Club World Championship have never been more legitimate.

I must add that the latest issue of *World Soccer* is yet again phenomenal. You continue to surpass yourselves year after year. I started reading the magazine as a teenager in the late Eighties when the coverage was charming but haphazard. The magazine has grown with the game and truly is the soccer bible.

***Stephen Garrett, by e-mail***

*Gavin Hamilton replies: Thanks for your comments about the magazine, but I think you are wrong about FIFA's Club World Championship. FIFA conceived the idea at a time when UEFA was expanding the Champions League to exploit rising television revenues. But the TV cash is no longer so plentiful – as FIFA and the organisers of Spain 2001 discovered. The situation is unlikely to be any different in 2005.*

**Please mark your correspondence 'Letters page' and send to:**
*World Soccer*, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7261 7474
E-mail: worldsoccerletters@ipcmedia.com

## CROSSWORD mitre

# WIN a top-quality Mitre football

Mitre has kindly donated a top-quality football as first prize for this month's crossword. The first correct entry selected at random after January 24 will win the ball. Five runners-up will each win a *World Soccer Yearbook*. SEND YOUR ENTRY TO: JANUARY CROSSWORD, *World Soccer*, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS.

### ACROSS

1 Veteran coach back in charge of Atletico Madrid (8)
6 Goalkeeper in Guy Roux's Auxerre side (4)
7 Celta Vigo's 23-year-old midfielder once of Bordeaux, Marseille and PSG (6)
9 Ex-Atalanta midfielder shuttled between Milan and Parma (6)
10 Mouscron coach who succeeded Aime Anthuenis at Anderlecht (5)
11 2002 East and Central African club champions from Tanzania (5)
14 Nigerian international who left PSG for Bolton in 2002 (6)
16 AIK Stockholm's ex-skipper brought home from Brondby (6)
17 Former Turkey defender and captain of Trabzonspor and Fenerbahce (4)
18 Coach entrusted with Macedonia's Euro 2004 fortunes (8)

### DOWN

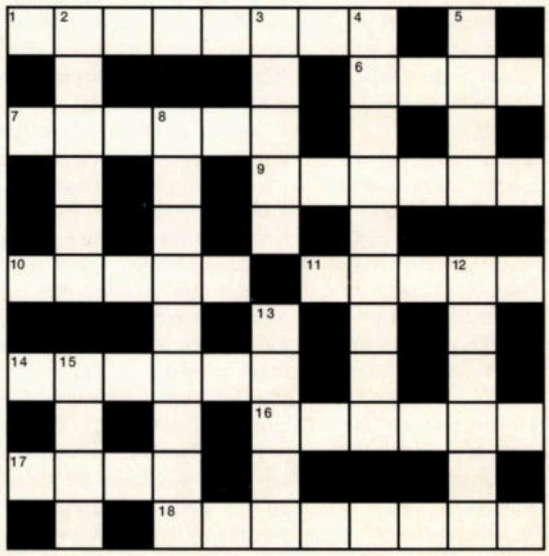
2 One-time Vitesse Arnhem forward in Ipswich's relegation side (6)
3 Burundi striker in France with Monaco (5)
4 Right-sided midfielder of Leverkusen and Germany (9)
5 Dutchman currently at the helm of Japan's Urawa Reds (4)
8 Ex-Alaves Argentinian defender now coached by 1 Across (9)
12 Briefly coach of Poland (6)
13 Long-serving Spanish defender in the squad of 1 Across (5)
15 Club promoted to Denmark's Superliga with Farum (4)

### NOVEMBER SOLUTION

ACROSS: 2 Paramatti, 6 Marin, 7 Nadal, 9 Ivanov, 10 Iran, 12 Sava, 14 Brugge, 17 Otero, 18 Gento, 19 Guimaraes.
DOWN: 1 Cambiasso, 2 Parma, 3 Rincon, 4 Mons, 5 Tudor, 8 Linderoth, 11 Drogba, 13 Vieri, 15 Gunes, 16 Toda.

### NOVEMBER WINNERS

1st prize: Ammar al Asfoor, Oman.
5 runners-up: Ben Raven, Lancs; Jaime Ventura, Michigan, USA; Iacovos Hasapis, Paphos, Cyprus; Rhys Wolff, British Colombia, Canada; Termu Stubin, Helsinki, Finland.



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**JANUARY (photocopied coupons are acceptable)**

# 11 in a row...now it's time to go

Bent Skammelsrud retires after a record-breaking feat with Rosenborg. Sigurd Odegaard reports

## NORWAY

WHEN Bent Skammelsrud played his final match for Rosenborg, against Lyon in the Champions League, it marked the end of a remarkable career. He is the only player to have won 11 consecutive League titles with the same club.

In fact, the 36-year-old midfielder, who has played 272 League games for the Trondheim team, was keen to play on for one more season, but new coach Aage Hareide chose to start the process of replacing the veterans in his side and Skammelsrud was offered a place on the coaching staff.

His replacement is Fredrik Winsnes, who has been on loan and in fine form with Swedes Hammarby this season. In turn, Molde's Karl Oscar Fjortoft replaces Winsnes at Hammarby, while another Molde player, striker Andre Schei Lindbaek, is joining Spanish club Las Palmas. Petter Rudi, out of contract because of injury, will return to Belgium with Germinal Beerschot.

The Cup Final was a rather dull affair, a solitary early goal from Bjorn Levernes giving Valerenga victory over Odd Grenland.

Brann survived in the top division after beating Sandefjord 2-1 on aggregate in the relegation/promotion play-off.

The national team, having taken seven points from their first three Euro 2004 qualifiers, beat Austria 1-0 in a November friendly in Vienna. Substitute Pa-Modou Kah of Valerenga scored the goal, while 21-year-old Viking centre-back Brede Hangeland made a convincing debut.

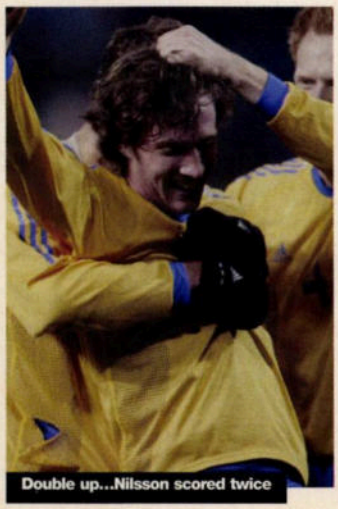
Top finish...but Skammelsrud wanted one more season

## SWEDEN

### Debutant Nilsson bags a brace

HALMSTADS midfielder Mikael Nilsson made an exceptional debut for Sweden in the friendly against the Czech Republic, scoring twice in the 3-3 draw in Teplice.

Only three years ago, Nilsson, 24, was toiling away with modest Ahus in the Second Division. However, following his transfer to Halmstads, he caught the eye this season as he inspired the side to an 11-game unbeaten run to finish the campaign.


Double up...Nilsson scored twice

The match against the Czechs also marked the return to full international duty of Djurgardens' Johan Elmander. Rejected by Feyenoord, Elmander has continued his career in Sweden, and is now getting back to his best form.

Djurgardens added the Cup to their League triumph with a 1-0 victory over city rivals AIK Stockholm. The game was settled by a golden goal from Louay Chanko in the 99th minute. There was trouble outside the ground, with rival supporters clashing in a nearby pub.

Former Denmark coach Bo Johansson has taken the reins at IFK Gothenburg, who only remained in the top division after beating neighbours Vastra Frolunda in the relegation/promotion play-off.

Arsenal's Freddie Ljungberg has been voted Sweden's Player of the Year.

*Pentti Hietanen*

## DENMARK

### Wonderful, wonderful Copenhagen

FC COPENHAGEN finished the autumn half of the League season with a massive nine-point lead, completing a memorable period with a 3-0 victory against Silkeborg.

The two players at the heart of Copenhagen's excellent season have been midfielder Thomas Roll Larsen and defender Martin Albrechtsen, both of whom earned places in the national squad. Indeed, Larsen scored in the 2-0 friendly victory against Poland in November, while Albrechtsen was named Superliga player of the autumn in the traditional poll of all 12 managers.

The inconsistency shown by the other top-flight sides was typified by Brondby. Coach Michael Laudrup has struggled to adapt to a more attacking strategy, though perhaps there were signs that his persistence was paying off as Brondby recorded a remarkable 7-1 win in the 17th round at home to Farum. Morten Wieghorst scored four of the goals.

Farum nevertheless recovered to win their final match 2-1 at home to OB Odense and claim third position as the Superliga went into hibernation. Their first season in the top flight has been a wonderful adventure, led by 10-goal striker Nichlas Hindsberg, who won Laudrup's vote as the best player in the division.

*Jim Holden*

## FINLAND

### Pasi rejoins Jokerit

PASI RAUTIAINEN has returned to Finland to coach promoted FC Jokerit for the second time.

During his previous stint, Rautiainen led them to the Finnish Cup in 1999 as well as the League runners-up spot the following year. After his departure, for what were termed 'personal reasons', the club were relegated in 2001. Last season Rautiainen coached Estonians Levadia Maardu, who finished runners-up in both League and Cup.

His return renews a rivalry with HJK Helsinki's Keith Armstrong. They are the two most charismatic coaches on the Finnish scene, as well as popular television pundits.

FC Haka won the Cup for the 11th time, beating FC Lahti 4-1 in an eventful Final played in driving snow. Lahti's resistance collapsed when midfielder Timo Marjamaa was sent off at the end of the first half. Haka coach Olli Huttunen has now won the Cup five times with the club, three of them as a player.

Liverpool's Sami Hyypia has been named Finland's Player of the Year for the second time.

*Pentti Hietanen*

## ICELAND

### Snow wipes out benefits

IN ONE of the most bizarre friendlies of recent times, Iceland lost 2-0 to Estonia in Tallinn in conditions better suited to ice-hockey than football.

The match was played in an unrelenting snowstorm, wiping out any value it may have had as a learning experience for the several unfamiliar faces in the Iceland line-up as coach Atli Edvaldsson rang the changes.

Back home, IBV named Magnus Gylfason as their new senior coach after finishing last season under caretaker boss Heimir Hallgrimsson. An unknown quantity in the Premier League, Gylfason coached Iceland Under-17s to victory in the summer's Nordic Championship. He takes over one of the hottest seats in Icelandic football, becoming the Islanders' 10th coach in 13 seasons.

*Rab Christie*

# 'Friendship' game marred by violence

Panathinaikos hooliganism in Istanbul sparks security clampdown, writes Lou Economopoulos

## GREECE

THE Fenerbahce-Panathinaikos UEFA Cup second round first leg in Istanbul was marred by hooliganism after visiting fans hurled plastic seats, bottles and other objects at Turkish and Greek ministers and officials as they toured the ground before the kick-off. Ironically, the match had been billed as a showcase of Turkish-Greek friendship, with the decision on the countries' joint bid to stage the 2008 European Championship just a few weeks away.

In a bid to prevent a repeat of the violence in the return, Athens mounted its biggest security operation since the visits of former US President Bill Clinton and Pope John Paul II. With some 3,000 police on duty, the game passed without major incident, while the authorities were further helped by Fenerbahce returning their ticket allocation of 500. In the end, only 150 Turkish fans travelled to see Panathinaikos win 4-1, giving the Greek side a 5-2 aggregate victory.

The 17,000-capacity Apostolos Nikolaidis stadium was not full after Panathinaikos officials said they would no longer recognise their supporters clubs, since certain members of these have been blamed for causing some of the violence in Istanbul.

In the League, Olympiakos got back on the winning track following the appointment of Srecko Katanec. The former Slovenia boss, who has signed a three-and-a-half-year contract, oversaw a 6-0 thrashing of Ionikos which lifted Olympiakos to the top of the table. Katanec, 39, replaced Yiannis Kollias, who had taken temporary charge after Takis Lemonis was fired following a poor showing in the Champions League.

PAOK Salonika have been ordered to play five home games behind closed doors following crowd trouble during their 1-1 draw with Olympiakos in October.

Prelude to chaos...Turkish police guard Pana fans in Istanbul

## YUGOSLAVIA

### Partizan top but troubled

PARTIZAN secured top spot in the League two rounds before the winter shutdown. However, their success was overshadowed by a disastrous UEFA Cup exit at the hands of Slavia Prague and the scandal arising from coach Ljubisa Tumbakovic's verbal and physical attack on a TV reporter after a League game against OFK Belgrade.

Partizan went to the Czech Republic with a 3-1 lead from the first leg, but eventually succumbed 6-4 on aggregate. Three days later following the Belgrade derby, Tumbakovic attacked reporter Nedeljko Kovinjalo, who had criticised the coach's tactics during the broadcast of the defeat by Slavia. Tumbakovic was fined £1,600, the highest monetary punishment under federation rules.

Red Star also exited the UEFA Cup at the second round stage, drawing 1-1 at home to Lazio after a 1-0 defeat in Rome.

The national team's limitations were exposed as they went down to a 3-0 friendly defeat in France.

*Vladimir Novak*

## BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

### Ethnic problems flare

ENMITY between the country's ethnic groups marred the final few weeks of the unified national championship before the winter shutdown.

FC Borac, who previously played in Bosnia's Serb League, were ordered to play one game behind closed doors after their fans taunted those of Muslim team Zeljeznicar. During the match, Borac fans displayed banners glorying in the Srebrenica massacre, in which more than 7,000 Muslims were killed by Serb forces during the civil war.

Two weeks later there was trouble during the Mostar derby between traditionally Croat side Zrinjski and Muslim Velez. Zrinjski fans leapt the perimeter fence after the game and attempted to attack Velez players. However, none were injured, thanks partly to protection they received from Zrinjski players.

*Zdravko Reic*

Peaking nicely...Emre Belozoglu

## TURKEY

### Gunes upbeat after Italy draw

NATIONAL coach Senol Gunes expressed satisfaction at Turkey's performance in the 1-1 friendly draw with Italy in Pescara, saying it stood his side in good stead for their Euro 2004 clash away to England in April.

"We were the better side and Emre Belozoglu and Yildiray Basturk have rarely played better for us," said Gunes. "We are working towards the England game. They are not playing well at the moment and even though they may have improved by April, I'm certain we will take points from them."

Emre opened the scoring for Turkey on the half-hour, but his Internazionale team-mate Christian Vieri equalised nine minutes later.

Galatasaray bade farewell to Europe after losing 3-1 in Barcelona in their final Champions League group game. Coach Fatih Terim suggested his side's exit had been caused by their commitment to attacking football. "If we had played negatively we could have qualified," he said. "But defensive football is not my line."

Terim's autumn campaign had already turned sour after Gala's extraordinary 6-0 derby defeat at Fenerbahce, who kept their composure despite Ariel Ortega's sending off on the hour mark and constantly exposed Gala's weakness against counter-attacks.

Before the match, police marched hundreds of Gala fans out of the ground after violence erupted between rival supporters. The incident led to a one-match stadium ban for Fener.

*Hasan Cemali*

## CROATIA

### Baric's smile is back

THE national team's 1-0 friendly victory over Romania in Timisoara has put a smile back on the face of coach Otto Baric following his side's dismal draw against Estonia and defeat by Bulgaria in the opening Euro 2004 qualifiers.

"Regardless of our past results, we are sure to reach the finals," the veteran coach asserted after the Romania game.

Baric gave a debut to Maccabi Haifa forward Giovanni Rosso, who has an Israeli passport, having lived in that country for six years, and who was expected to play for their national team. However, he pledged his allegiance to his native Croatia, saying: "I really feel at home in Israel and it is almost as if I was born there. But I would rather play just once for Croatia than 50 times for Israel."

Opting for Croatia...Giovanni Rosso

Hajduk's Dario Srna also made his debut, the former Under-21 star making a strong case for a regular starting place in the senior side.

*Zdravko Reic*

## MACEDONIA

### Bonus default behind defeat

NATIONAL coach Nikola Ilievski claimed a dose of food poisoning caused his team to lose their November friendly at home to Israel. However, the players suggested another reason for the 3-2 defeat when it emerged that they had received only a fraction of the £8,500-a-man bonus due for their good performances in the Euro 2004 qualifiers against Turkey and England.

Pelister, Cup winners in 2001, are in severe financial trouble and were threatened with expulsion from the League after the players went on strike to protest at the president's running of the club. However, they have since vowed to resume playing in the hope that a financial solution can be found during the winter break.

*Michel Stojmanovski*

**Round-up**

## Debtor clubs face points deduction

A NUMBER of **SLOVENIAN** top division clubs, including League leaders Olimpija, have been threatened with a points deduction if they do not pay money owed to players and coaches by the end of the year. Bottom side Korotan are likely to be worst affected. They owe £40,000 to players and face a seven-point sanction.

Olimpija suffered problems on the field, too, losing 2-1 at home to Rudar to see their lead slashed to two points over Publikum, who have won eight games out of 10 inspired by former Hajduk Split player Marijan Budimir.

*Zdravko Reic*

GIUSEPPE DOSSENA has resigned as **ALBANIA** coach after just four months in charge. The former Italy forward cited the media criticism he received after the 4-1 defeat by Russia in a Euro 2004 qualifier. Dossena has been replaced by Suleiman Demollari, who was sacked after Albania's 2-0 friendly defeat by Andorra last April.

*Gezim Nushi*

SIGI HELD'S position as **MALTA** coach has come under heavy pressure after the team slipped to their fourth Euro 2004 qualifying defeat, this time 2-1 away to Cyprus. Birkirkara had an easy 4-1 victory over Hibernians in the Super Five Cup Final.

*Domenico Aquilina*

**CYPRUS** side Anorthosis Famagusta have sacked three Polish players – last season's top scorer Woiczeh Kowalczyk plus Slavomir Majak and Marius Piekarski – after becoming disenchanted with their performances.

Omonia's Germany-born striker Rainer Rauffmann scored his first goal for Cyprus during their Euro 2004 qualifying victory over Malta.

*Soulis Theodosiou*



# Young Turk firing Sociedad to the top in Spain

"NIHAT is on the way to becoming world class," declares veteran Turkey striker Hakan Sukur. "He will soon be better than Owen, Raul and Vieri."

Hakan may be overdosing on the hyperbole, yet the general thrust of his comments on the young Turkish attacking midfielder are valid. One of the most exciting performers in the Spanish League this season, Nihat's right-footed invention and goals have been key elements in Real Sociedad's storming start to the campaign.

The 23-year-old is just the sort of player new Sociedad coach Raynald Denoueix appreciates. In his time at Nantes – whom he led to the League title in 2000-01 – the Frenchman's midfield and front-line were packed with short, skilful, pacy players; Nihat comes from the same mould. Denoueix demands incessant movement, a slick, short-passing game, and explosive forward bursts. Nihat meets all the requirements.

"Everything is going really well for me at the moment," says Nihat, who started his professional career with Besiktas. "My form is good and the team are getting positive results. I'm especially pleased with the goals I have scored this season. At Besiktas I would score a half-dozen or so every year. This season, I have already equalled that amount and know I can add more.

"People are wondering if we can stay at the top of the table. I think we can. We have quality players and so much confidence. We can definitely compete for a Champions League or UEFA Cup place."

However, Nihat has not always looked a class act. He was far from convincing following his £3 million move from Besiktas midway through last season, and a return home was envisaged. But he opted to stay put, and no one at the San Sebastian club regrets it.

"We half-expected him to start slowly," explains Sociedad assistant coach Jesus Zamora. "He was getting over a bad knee injury and had to settle in a new country. Although he did not play much for Turkey at the World Cup [he made two substitute appearances], he came back in buoyant mood. In pre-season, we saw a brilliant Nihat and it was the same when the championship got under way."

Nihat's starring role in Spain has not gone unnoticed by Turkey boss Senol Gunes. He started both the October Euro 2004 qualifiers, against Macedonia and Liechtenstein, giving impressive displays and scoring the winner against Macedonia.

"He's dynamite on the ball," says Gunes. "Some of the things he does leave you astounded."

*Nick Bidwell*

**Fact file**

**Club** Real Sociedad (Spa)
**Country** Turkey
**Born** November 23, 1979, in Istanbul
**Previous clubs** Esenler Istanbul, Besiktas
**International debut** October 2000, v Sweden
**International caps** 17 (3 goals)
**Honours** Turkish Cup 1998

# Lokomotiv strike gold

Victor Gusev on the Moscow side's victory in the championship decider

## RUSSIA

LOKOMOTIV MOSCOW secured their first League title when beating city rivals CSKA 1-0 in this year's specially staged championship play-off.

The so-called 'golden match', held because the two teams finished level on 66 points, was settled by a sixth-minute goal from Dmitri Loskov.

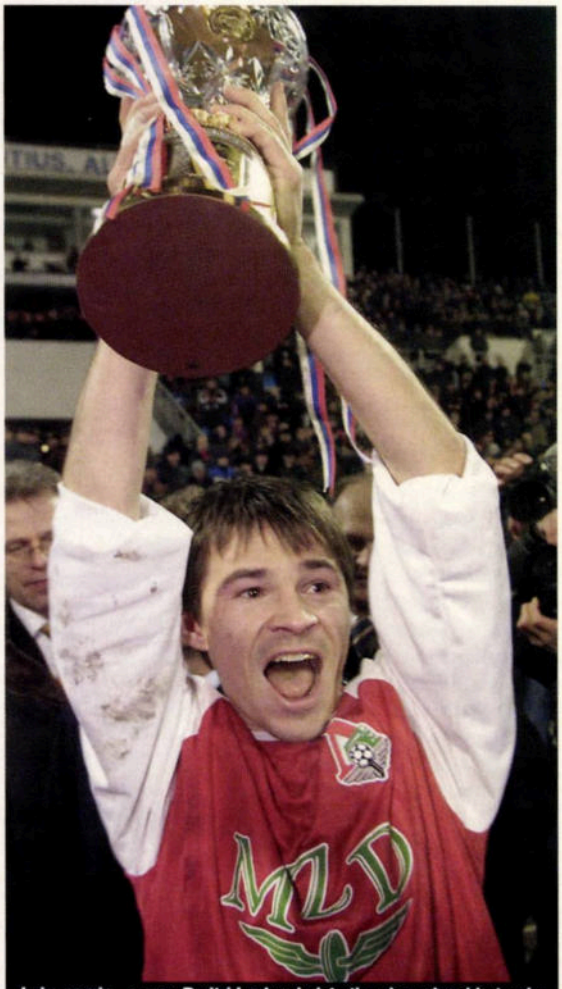
CSKA dominated the game, played before a sell-out crowd of 34,000 at the Dinamo stadium, but were unable to penetrate a Lokomotiv defence that had conceded only 14 goals in 30 League matches.

"We deserved the victory as we have dominated the season," said Lokomotiv coach Yuri Syomin, who has also guided the side into the second group phase of the Champions League.

Lokomotiv's triumph ended Moscow Spartak's six-year reign as champions and ensured that 2002 has been a year to forget for Oleg Romantsev's side. They finished only third in the League, 11 points behind the top two, and humiliatingly lost all six of their Champions League group games, scoring just one goal and conceding 18.

The club have clearly been weakened by their transfer policy over the past couple of seasons. They got rid of a number of stalwarts – including Andrei Tikhonov, Vitali Evseev, Yevgeni Bushmanov and Victor Bulatov – who almost instantly became leaders in their new teams.

Spartak's own reserves were not ready to replace them, attempts to fill the vacant places with second-rate foreign imports also failed, and the club are now paying closer attention to the home market. Once-capped goalkeeper Andrei Chichkin, 25, and Russia Under-21 striker Roman Pavluchenko, 20, were hastily signed from Rotor Volgograd even before the League ended.



Loko mania...scorer Dmitri Loskov hoists the championship trophy

Changing fortune...Kamil Kosowski

## POLAND

### Boniek leaves after five games

ZBIGNIEW BONIEK has stepped down as national team coach after only five games in charge, which included a home defeat by Latvia in the Euro 2004 qualifiers. The former international announced his decision after his team lost again, this time 2-0 away to Denmark in a friendly.

"This is the last chance for a few players," the coach had said before the Copenhagen game, signalling the end of his period of experimentation. "I should find out who is good enough and who will be out." But his team showed no style or character during the defeat and there was little sign of improvement from the side that performed so dismally during the World Cup under Jerzy Engel.

Ironically, two of the forwards who disappointed in Copenhagen were Wisla Krakow's best players during the UEFA Cup win over Parma a week before. Kamil Kosowski and Maciej Zurawski both scored in their side's 4-1 home win which secured a 5-3 aggregate victory.

Wisla were a point clear of Katowice at the top at the halfway stage of the League campaign. Defending champions Legia were third after having their 33-game unbeaten run ended by Ruch Chorzow.

*Dariusz Kurowski*

## UKRAINE

### Alarm bells for Dynamo

KYIV DYNAMO were lying fourth as the League moved into the winter break, their worst ever placing at this stage. On top of the distractions of a protracted European campaign – they are contesting the UEFA Cup after making a dramatic last-day exit from the Champions League – Dynamo are also having to contend with the rise of ambitious clubs such as Dnipro and Arsenal Kyiv.

Shakhtar Donetsk were top at the break on the back of a four-game winning run under caretaker coach Valeriy Yaremchenko.

Ihor Nadein has taken the reins from acting Metalurh Zaporizhzhya coach Oleh Lutkov, while Metalist's Mikhail Fomenko resigned after a poor run of results. The new boss is Valentin Kriyachko, a leading player with the club in the 1980s. Leonid Gaidarzhi has replaced Alexander Skrypnik at struggling Chornomorets.

*Oleg Zadernovsky*

## CZECH REPUBLIC

### Fans still unhappy with top-ranked Sparta

SPARTA PRAGUE were top of the table at the winter break but the fans, furious at a perceived lack of style and substance, heckled coach Jozef Jarabinsky when Sparta lost their first League game of the season 1-0 at home to promoted Zlin. It followed their 2-1 aggregate UEFA Cup exit to Denizlispor of Turkey.

Slavia Prague ended Viktoria Zizkov's 30-match unbeaten home run with a 4-0 win, while struggling Sigma Olomouc replaced coach Bohumil Panik with Jiri Kotrba.

The national team's 3-3 draw with Sweden in Teplice enabled coach Karel Bruckner to finish his first year in charge unbeaten with seven wins and three draws.

*Roy Kitson*

## ROMANIA

### Hounded Popescu quits Red Dogs

AS THE travails of champions Dinamo continued, Rapid stretched their lead at the top of the table to 10 points over the Red Dogs.

The latest upheaval to strike Dinamo was the departure of Gheorghe Popescu, just six months into his two-year contract, after captain Giani Kirita applauded fans jeering the former Tottenham, Barcelona and Galatasaray defender.

When Popescu joined Dinamo in the summer, it looked like the ideal way for one of Romania's most popular players to wind down his

career. But the season began poorly, and it was only when Popescu was out with an ankle injury that results picked up – the Red Dogs won all five games he missed. His return coincided with a 2-0 defeat at Otelul, and it was then the fans turned on him.

Popescu did not leave quietly, hinting there may be some truth in allegations of corruption surrounding Dinamo. "Returning here was a very bad decision," he admitted. "It was impossible to perform. I don't want to expand on this, but I have very strong reasons for deciding to stop playing in Romania."

*Jonathan Wilson*

In the balance...Stoicho Stoilov

**BULGARIA**

### Stoilov victim of road rage shooting

STOICHO STOILOV'S career looks to be over after he was shot four times in a road rage incident. The Litex Lovech captain was on his way to watch Levski Sofia's home UEFA Cup tie against Sturm Graz when he was involved in a car crash with a retired military sergeant. As a quarrel over liability broke out, the sergeant opened fire, leaving Stoilov in a critical condition.

The midfielder, who has played 10 times for Bulgaria, had 10 hours of surgery the following day, and is now off the danger list.

Ironically, Stoilov only had the time to travel to the match because he had broken an ankle in Lovech's 1-0 defeat by CSKA five days earlier.

CSKA stretched their winning run to 13 matches and led Levski by eight points at the winter break.

*Jonathan Wilson*

**Round-up**

## Advantage Slovan

SLOVAN BRATISLAVA will start the spring campaign in **SLOVAKIA** with an eight-point advantage over Spartak Trnava, who they beat 2-1 away in early November. However, the leaders are likely to be without League top scorer Robert Vittek with a long-term injury.

Slovan rounded off the first half of the League with a 3-1 victory over Inter in the Bratislava derby.

*Roy Kitson*

WITH Budapest clubs MTK, Ferencvaros and Ujpest in the top three places, the **HUNGARIAN** League has a familiar look. MTK remain title favourites, Bela Illes scoring his 13th goal of the season in a 2-1 win over outgoing champions Zalaegerszeg.

Werder Bremen midfielder Krisztian Lisztes has been named Hungarian Footballer of the Year after masterful displays in the Bundesliga and for a resurgent national side.

*Peterjon Cresswell*

AN extra-time goal from defender Valeryi Tarasenko gave BATE Borisov a 1-0 victory over Neman in the **BELORUSSIAN** championship play-off after the teams finished level on 56 points. Defending champions Belshina Bobruisk were eighth, having had three points deducted for failing to pay transfer fees. Lokomotiv 96 were relegated, with Darida, Naftan-Devon and Lokomotiv Minsk promoted to bring the top flight up to 16 clubs.

Dinamo Minsk fired coach Andrei Zygmantovich following their poor League season. Stuttgart midfielder Aleksander Hleb has been voted Belarus' Player of the Year.

*Vladimir Kalinkovich*

FBK KAUNAS won the **LITHUANIAN** championship for the fourth successive year, finishing 11 points clear of Atlantas of Klaipeda.

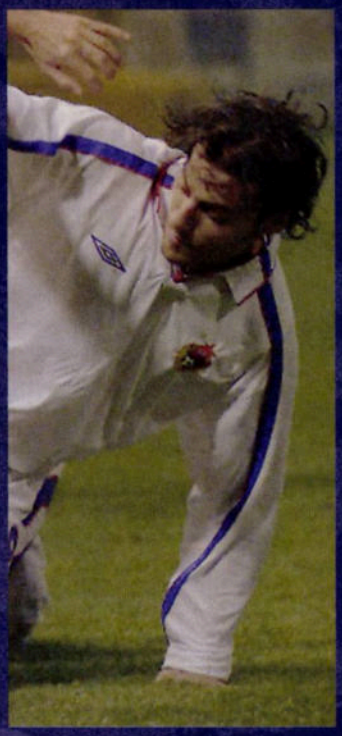
FBK striker Audrius Slekys was top scorer with 19 goals, while team-mate Andrius Velicka scored seven of his 18 goals in one game – the 10-0 thrashing of Nevezis Kedainiai – a League record.

Zalgiris Vilnius finished fourth after a troubled season. The players went on strike for non-payment of wages, which led to three, including captain and top scorer Giedrius Barevicius, being sacked.

*Vladimir Kalinkovich*

**Pro-file** Rolan Gusev

# Tricky CSKA man back in the fold with Russia



LAST-DITCH disappointments have been the lot of CSKA Moscow and Russia's Rolan Gusev in the past few months. The tricky right-winger or playmaker was unexpectedly left out of the World Cup squad last summer and suffered more 11th-hour heartbreak recently when his club were defeated 1-0 by city rivals Lokomotiv in the League championship play-off decider.

After taking part in five of the World Cup qualifiers and starting the 2002 domestic season in vibrant form following a move from Dinamo Moscow to CSKA, Gusev had good reason to believe he would be included in the 23-man party for Korea/Japan. But national boss Oleg Romantsev ignored him.

Gusev claims the reason was that the coach was punishing him for signing for CSKA rather than Moscow Spartak, where Romantsev also coaches. "From the moment I decided against joining Spartak, I knew he might react like that," said Gusev, who came through the Dinamo youth ranks. "But although it hurt to be pushed out of the national team at such an important time, I don't regret choosing CSKA over Spartak."

The player would gain his revenge at club level. While Romantsev's Spartak, the defending champions, finished the 2002 campaign in a poor third place, Gusev was inspiring CSKA during a titanic struggle for the title with Lokomotiv. The player enjoyed the most productive goalscoring season of his career, netting 15 times to jointly claim the national golden boot with team-mate Dmitri Kirichenko. His dribbling virtuosity, sublime passing and outstanding delivery from set-pieces were equally vital to the rise of CSKA.

Although his side failed at the last, losing to Lokomotiv in the specially staged championship play-off match, there has been good news for Gusev on the international front. Russia's first-round exit from the World Cup brought an end to the Romantsev era; his successor, CSKA boss Valeri Gazzayev – who intends to combine his national team and club duties – made the recall of Gusev a top priority.

Understandably, Gusev is a fan of the new Russia boss, saying: "Gazzayev is the right man for the job. He has proved what a good leader he is at CSKA, Alaniya Vladikavkaz and for our Under-21s."

*Nick Bidwell*

**Fact file**

**Club** CSKA Moscow
**Country** Russia
**Born** September 17, 1977, in Ashkhabad
**Previous clubs** Dinamo Dubil, Dinamo Moscow
**International debut** May 2000, v Slovakia
**International caps** 13 (0 goals)
**Honours** Russian Cup 2002 (CSKA)

# Romario: spoilt rotten?

Brian Homewood reports on Fluminense's extraordinary pampering of their star striker

Cosseted...Romario

BRAZIL

VETERAN striker Romario has often been granted privileges by the teams he has played for, but never has a club been so open about pandering to his whims as Fluminense.

The preferential treatment offered to the 36-year-old was exposed after the team defied the pundits by reaching the quarter-finals of the national championship. Romario trained only once with his team-mates before the first leg of their tie against Sao Caetano, which Fluminense won 3-0. And while Fluminense travelled to Sao Paulo two days ahead of the return match, Romario stayed at home in Rio, exercising a clause in his contract that allows him to travel to away games separately from the rest of the squad.

As the other team members were put through their paces in the drizzle at a Sao Paulo athletics stadium on the day before the second leg, Romario woke up at midday and was subjected to nothing more strenuous than a hydromassage session.

Fluminense president David Fischel admitted when he signed Romario in July that he would be given special treatment. That has been borne out. For one thing, he gets paid on time. While the rest of the squad have to wait up to three months for their wages, Romario's salary is deposited directly into his bank account by the team sponsors. The pampered 1994 World Cup hero is also excused training on the day after matches and can miss other sessions if he gives advance notice.

Critics can argue that the tactic works – after all, Romario had scored 15 goals up to the end of the quarter-final stage and, despite barely touching the ball in the first leg against Sao Caetano, he was involved in all three Fluminense goals. On the other hand, it was just this sort of behaviour that discouraged

## Round-up

**URUGUAY:** Unheralded Danubio won the closing championship with a game to spare to set up a play-off with opening winners Nacional for the overall title.

Penarol's challenge was hampered by a three-point deduction because of crowd trouble during a game in the previous closing campaign. However, they did win the big derby game 4-2 against Nacional.

**COLOMBIA:** Coach Francisco Maturana, who resigned after failing to take the national team to this year's World Cup finals, has been reappointed. Maturana led Colombia to victory in the 2001 Copa America and to the finals of the 1990 and 1994 World Cups in a previous spell in charge. He was most recently in charge of Saudi side Al Hilal.

Deportivo Cali overcame their grief at the death of two team-mates, killed by lightning during training, by finishing top of the closing championship regular season table.

John Jairo Mosqueira, aged 14, became the youngest player to appear in a top division game when he appeared as a substitute for Millonarios.

Unpaid Atletico Huila players have been on strike claiming that they do not have enough money for food and transport to the training ground.

Real Cartagena have been relegated despite receiving special court permission to play jailed Ivan Valenciano in their final game. The veteran forward was recently imprisoned for causing a traffic accident and not paying compensation to an injured woman.

**PARAGUAY:** For the first time in years the country's two biggest clubs, Olimpia and Cerro Porteno, have had to watch from the sidelines as two small clubs, Libertad and 12 de Octubre, fought it out for the overall League title. Opening champions Libertad took the honours with 2-1 and 4-1 victories. 12 de Octubre had won the closing tournament.

Olimpia president Osvaldo Dominguez Dibb withdrew lawsuits alleging misuse of funds against the Paraguayan FA just before the club were due to meet Real Madrid in the World Club Cup. FIFA had threatened to cancel Olimpia's affiliation since it forbids clubs from taking complaints to civil courts.

**CHILE:** Cobreloa won most points in the first phase of the closing championship, from which 12 of the 16 teams qualify for play-offs.

**BOLIVIA:** Blooming suffered two heavy closing championship defeats after being forced to field a team of juniors because of a strike by the senior squad. The first-team players took their action after being asked to take a salary cut. The makeshift side, made up of 15 to 17-year-olds, lost 10-1 away to Bolivar and 8-0 at Real Potosi.

Blooming had been title contenders until the strike, when coach Jose Luis Brown, the former Argentinian World Cup defender, also walked out.

Bolivar secured the title with one match still to play after closest challengers Oriente Petrolero lost 1-0 away to Independiente. Bolivar, also the opening winners, thus secured the overall championship without the need for a play-off.

Celebration...Danubio

A few days before their defeat at Independiente, Oriente had actually beaten Bolivar, 3-0, with teenager Jose Alfredo Castillo scoring twice. This took the striker's overall season tally to 46 goals, beating his own record of 42 set last season.

**PERU:** First-team players at Universitario, who won the opening title, have been on strike after not being paid since the early months of the year. The club had to field a team of Under-20s and the subsequent defeats meant they missed out on the chance to compete for the overall championship. The opening winners normally play the closing winners for the title, but Universitario lost that right by being unable to finish in the top four of the closing campaign.

**ECUADOR:** National team captain Alex Aguinaga became the first Ecuadorean to win 100 caps when he appeared in the November friendly against Costa Rica. The 34-year-old celebrated his achievement by scoring his country's first goal in the 2-2 draw.

*Eric Weil*

Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari from taking Romario to what would have been his third World Cup in June.

'Big Phil', eager to avoid the in-fighting that has wrecked past Brazilian World Cup campaigns, was determined to create a harmonious atmosphere. The last thing he wanted was someone like Romario, who, among other things, throws a tantrum if he is not allowed to be the last one on to the training pitch.

Fluminense coach Renato Portaluppi has repeatedly had to justify Romario's regal treatment. "There's no point in Romario training like mad all week and then being too tired to play," he said. Fair enough, perhaps – he is 36 after all. But can anything justify Romario's me-me-me approach to the game?

Fluminense staff complain they cannot extract so much as a 'Good morning' from Romario on his rare appearances at the training ground and allege that he plays merely for himself rather than the team.

At the end of Fluminense's second leg against Sao Caetano, when they scraped through despite a pitiful performance in a 2-0 defeat, Romario walked off the pitch sulkily on his own while his team-mates celebrated in the middle of the pitch.

Fluminense were joined in the last four by Corinthians, Gremio and Santos. The latter, inspired again by 17-year-old midfielder Diego who scored in both legs, knocked out Sao Paulo as their young team continued their inspiring campaign. Diego had already had a taste of the pressures that await him on the day before the first leg when a bunch of fans insulted him during a training session because they thought he was slacking.

Although Santos have delighted the public, their win fuelled the debate over the use of the knockout format to decide the championship. Sao Paulo, after all, had won the first stage – in which the 26 teams played each other once – by five clear points only to be eliminated over two games by a team who finished 13 points and seven places below them.

Corinthians, led by Brazil's 1994 World Cup-winning coach Carlos Alberto Parreira, demolished Atletico Mineiro, winning 6-2 away with four goals by striker Deivid and finishing the job with a 2-1 win in the return.

Atletico president Alexandre Kalil reacted furiously to the first-leg hammering before an 81,000 crowd, blasting his players for lack of effort and branding them cowards.

The win kept Corinthians on course for a unique treble, as they won the Rio-Sao Paulo tournament and the Copa Brasil earlier in the year. Parreira has managed to rebuild the team despite seeing midfielder Ricardinho, the best player and World Cup squad member, sold to Sao Paulo halfway through the year.

Gremio won a typically uncompromising tie against fellow southerners Juventude, with striker Cesar scoring the only goal of the tie in the second half of the second leg. It was a disappointing end for Juventude, who are coached by former Paris Saint-Germain and Brazil defender Ricardo Gomes. They had exceeded expectations by reaching the knockout stages and appeared to have done the difficult part by holding out for a goalless draw away to Gremio in the first leg.

The team may have been hampered by the row involving striker Claudio Mejolaro, who was dropped by Gomes from the first leg after claiming he would not celebrate if he scored against Gremio.

It was the second such row of the championship. The first involved Botafogo captain Galeano, who promised not to celebrate if he scored against his old club Palmeiras. Botafogo directors offered him £900 to change his mind, but Galeano added a delightful twist to the tale by taking and missing a penalty during the match, which ended 1-1.

In the event, both Palmeiras and Botafogo, two traditional powers in the Brazilian game, were relegated after dismal campaigns. Not even the presence of World Cup keeper Marcos could save Palmeiras from the drop, which came little more than three years after they had won the Libertadores Cup. Botafogo used four coaches during their 25 games.

The relegation of two big clubs reopened the debate about possible rule changes, such as the one that saved Fluminense in 1996, to allow them to stay up. The CBF promised that this time the rules would be respected and the two would have to play in Serie B next year. Given that the CBF has broken similar promises in the past, few believed them.

## Pro-file Geovanny Hernandez

# Colombian playmaker aiming to accede to Valderrama's throne

KNOWN locally as 'The Prince', the time has come for Geovanny Hernandez to prove himself worthy of the crown.

Like Hernandez, his country, Colombia, are at a crossroads. Can they move on to establish themselves as a global power? Or will they slip back among South America's also-rans?

They take up the challenge under the command of Francisco Maturana, back for his fourth spell in charge. But he can no longer call on his golden generation of Freddy Rincon, Faustino Asprilla and, most important of all, Carlos Valderrama.

Plenty of gifted midfielders have buckled under the strain of replacing Colombia's great playmaker. Hernandez has also had his chances, with only mixed results. But now the Deportivo Cali midfielder looks set to have another opportunity. Maturana is a fan, saying: "With his intelligence and class he's as close to Valderrama as we're likely to find."

Their styles are not exactly the same. Hernandez is a more direct player, more inclined to look for the killer pass or burst past the strikers in search of a shot. He can be difficult to knock off the ball, as was Valderrama, but now he has to show that he has the same mental strength as his illustrious predecessor.

Hernandez was handed playmaking duties in Maturana's previous spell in charge, and 'The Prince' cut a majestic figure as Colombia won the 2001 Copa America on home soil. But when the serious business of World Cup qualification resumed, he was not nearly so regal and the team missed out on Korea/Japan.

More had been expected from the playmaker, but his domestic form has since gone from strength to strength. Despite the recent tragic death of two team-mates, hit by lightning during a training session, Hernandez has inspired Deportivo to the latter stages of the closing championship. His next big challenge is to guide Colombia towards the 2006 World Cup.

This time the circumstances should be more suited to his style. Colombia staged their last qualifiers for 2002 in the cool mountain air of Bogota. Maturana has already said they will return to Barranquilla, where the intense heat often makes opponents wilt. Barranquilla was the base when Valderrama conducted the team to the 1990, 1994 and 1998 World Cups. Now it will be where 'Prince' Hernandez tries to become the new king of Colombian football.

*Tim Vickery*

### Fact file

**Club** Deportivo Cali
**Country** Colombia
**Born** June 16, 1976, in Cali
**Previous clubs** Once Caldas, America, Independiente Medellin
**International debut** July 2000, v Peru
**International caps** 9 (1 goal)
**Honours** Copa America 2001; Colombian League 1997 (America)

Call us No 1...Federico Insua's midfield generalship was a key factor in Independiente's triumph

# Independiente go from bottom to top

Eric Weil on the new champions' amazing turnaround

**ARGENTINA**

INDEPENDIENTE, who finished bottom of last season's closing championship, completed their remarkable transformation by winning the 2002 opening title with a 3-0 victory over San Lorenzo on the final day. The result, which secured the club their 14th League championship, put them three points clear of runners-up Boca Juniors.

Independiente began the campaign as favourites for relegation since their points average over recent seasons – the determining factor – was so poor. They had also been suffering from a deep financial crisis, like most Argentinian clubs.

The key to Independiente's resurrection was the arrival of new owner Daniel Grinbank, a rock music entrepreneur and long-time fan, whose money and that injected by a consortium of businessmen allowed the club to buy practically a new team. Ex-River Plate coach Americo Gallego, who joined Independiente last term, moulded the new arrivals into a side capable of carrying off the championship.

To Gallego goes the credit of plucking Gabriel Milito out of the reserves and into the first-team defence, of making midfielder Federico Insua the side's general, and urging the club committee to retain the services of forward Andres Silvera, on loan from Union Santa Fe. The trio proved indispensable in the title challenge, with Silvera becoming championship top scorer with 16 goals.

"I must have done something right. This is my third League title in five campaigns," said Gallego, referring to two previous championships won with River Plate. He certainly surprised with his tactics, being the only top-flight coach to play with just one striker in a 4-3-2-1 formation. But with Silvera in such form, the team needed only one up front.

The foundation for Independiente's triumph was laid in the opening weeks, when they won six of their first eight games, scoring 26 goals. With just five of the 19-game championship to play they held an eight-point lead, but their defensive frailties were exposed as they stuttered in the final stretch.

"We will always have problems in defence because we go out to attack all the time," said Gallego at the time, and so it proved as they picked up only five points in their next four games, the last being a lucky 1-1 draw against Boca Juniors, secured with a last-minute goal after being outplayed.

These were the only points dropped by Boca in their last seven matches as they moved into title contention, but Independiente held off the challenge by refinding their winning ways in the final round. Their luck had held, too, since last-day opponents San Lorenzo had only just returned from a tiring trip to Colombia, where they had beaten Medellin side Atletico Nacional 4-0 in the first leg of the Copa Sudamerica Final.

Arsenal were the other side to emerge from the opening championship with great credit. They finished eighth with 27 points, just two short of equalling Argentinos Juniors' record total for a promoted side since the introduction of short opening and closing championships in 1991.

"We never played defensively, as many promoted teams do to survive," said Arsenal coach Jorge Burruchaga, a member of the 1986 World Cup-winning squad. "Although I had to make do with cast-offs from other clubs, my players showed they could play in many positions and could adapt quickly to tactical changes."

Many other coaches had a much more troubled campaign. In all, nine of the 20 clubs changed coaches during the season, including relegation-threatened Rosario Central, who dispensed with Cesar Menotti after he failed to significantly improve the side's poor points average.

The future of Boca's Uruguayan coach Oscar Tabarez and River Plate's Chilean Manuel Pellegrini looked in doubt, despite the sides finishing second and third respectively. Not winning the title is just not good enough for their clubs, while the coaches did not use the transfer market as wisely as Independiente. River, for example, acquired strikers Esteban Fuertes, Alejandro Dominguez and Jersson Gonzalez when they already had several proven attackers such as previous tournament top scorer Fernando Cavenaghi and Maxi Lopez. This meant there was little chance of achieving consistency up front. Boca, meanwhile, acquired Roberto Sosa, a leading scorer for Udinese in Italy, and Hungarian Robert Waltner and never gave them a chance.

Osvaldo Ardiles' position was also in peril after Racing Club, last season's opening winners, finished only sixth following a mediocre campaign. Fernando Marin, director of the company that runs the club, is not renowned for his patience, while key players such as midfielder Adrian Bastia may have to be sold to enable the club to pay off their large debts.

Gabriel Batistuta, Argentina's highest all-time scorer with 56 goals, has announced his international retirement after being left out of the squad that beat Japan 2-0 in a November friendly. The Roma forward said he had given everything he had to give to the national team and would be 37 by the time of the 2006 World Cup.

Batistuta, who won 78 caps in his 11-year international career, played in three World Cups, scoring 10 goals in the finals, and won the Copa America twice – in 1991 and 1993.

MEXICO

## Points don't mean prizes

DON'T be surprised if America fail to win the opening championship title. Although they had the best record in the regular season, only four regular season champions have gone on to win the overall title in the 12 editions played since the short league format was introduced in 1996.

This is the reality of a championship structure designed more to generate revenue than to reach a fair result. But at least in the current championship the eight sides with the most points qualified for the knockout stages. On several occasions in the past some of the better sides have missed out because, although all the teams play each other, they are divided into groups, from which only the top two qualify. This gives those pooled in weaker sections an advantage.

Four goals from Eduardo Lillingston helped Santos Laguna to a surprise 5-2 win over Toluca on the last day, giving them second place in Group 4, a point behind Guadalajara.

Toluca's defeat meant they took only second place in Group 1, beaten

Goals galore...Jose Cardozo

to top spot by defending champions America. Pumas UNAM and Tecos UAG qualified from Group 2, with Morelia and Cruz Azul completing the quarter-final line-up from Group 3.

Toluca striker Jose Cardozo was the undisputed player of the regular season, hitting 29 goals in 18 games. The Paraguayan thus became the third best scorer by average in the 100 years of the Mexican League.

*Carlos Ramirez*



# Ex-Liverpool star leading the Revolution in Major League Soccer

HAVING lost twice as many games as they had won with only a month of the regular season to go, New England Revolution were one of the worst teams in Major League Soccer. Results had not improved under caretaker boss Steve Nicol, who had taken over from Fernando Clavijo in May.

But Nicol, the ex-Liverpool stalwart, was confident they would. Sure enough, Revolution started winning, scraped into the play-offs, and kept going until they reached the MLS Cup Final, staged in their own fabulous new Gillette stadium.

They lost the decider – Los Angeles Galaxy scoring the only goal deep into overtime – but Nicol had done enough to earn a one-year contract.

After this year's exploits, the former Scotland international is arguably the most successful British coach in the States since they dominated the NASL scene in the 1970s. Several northern European coaches have floundered in MLS after imposing a direct, combative style of play on teams who would naturally evolve around a South American playmaker. But Nicol's British style suited his squad – they were well-organised, mean, and in Steve Ralston, one of MLS's most under-rated players, had someone who offered a superb supply of crosses to the likes of striker Taylor Twellman, the League's second highest scorer in 2002 with 23 goals.

"When I took over, we started to go about things in the right way but we weren't getting the results," says Nicol, who led Boston Bulldogs to the Division 3 title in 2001. "It took eight or nine games before we started a winning streak. We cut out the mistakes, got a settled team and learned how to win games that were going against us."

The Revs' mainly young, American players work hard and appreciate that Nicol knows what he is talking about. After 473 senior appearances for Liverpool, including two European Cup Finals, he should do. "I read a quote recently which I agree with: 'It's harder to work with players who think they are better than they actually are,' " says Nicol. "That gives you problems. But my players work hard, listen and pull together."

Nicol inherited a hotch-potch of a squad, three of whom left and three of whom joined the day after he took over – such is a coach's life when the League

does the buying and selling. "The central contracts thing in MLS was an eye-opener but once you get used to the system, you adapt to it and it becomes the norm. I've made it my team already – you don't have to bring in tons of new players to do that, just get them playing the way you want them to.

"Spending three years with Boston Bulldogs helped an awful lot. By far the biggest thing about it was being able to make mistakes with not many people being interested. It was a vital time to learn, and I couldn't have done that in England.

"I was enjoying playing at Doncaster, but I found myself wanting to say things and questioning why we did things a certain way. But you have to keep your mouth shut and wait for a coaching opportunity to come up. The first one was in Boston. It wasn't a conscious decision to come to the US."

Nicol, however, is not planning to return to the UK in the near future. "I brought the wife and kids for a year and we're still here. It's fantastic. I'm applying for my Green Card now [to allow him to stay long-term]. My only aim is to do well where I am. I'm miles away from the finished product but I've got nearly four years' experience now."

*Gavin Willacy*

### Fact file

**Club** New England Revolution (USA)
**Country** Scotland
**Born** December 16, 1961, in Irvine
**Playing career** Ayr 1979-81, Liverpool (Eng) 1981-95, Notts County (Eng) 1995, Sheffield Wednesday (Eng) 1995-98, Doncaster (Eng) 1998
**International caps** 27
**Managerial career** Notts County (Eng) 1995, Boston Bulldogs (USA) 1999-02, New England Revolution (USA) 2002-

Takeaway trophy...JS Kabylie revel in their CAF Cup triumph

# Kabylie keep the CAF

Mark Gleeson sees the Algiers side win the trophy for the third year running

ALGERIA'S JS Kabylie won a third successive CAF Cup title in November, earning themselves the right to permanently keep the Moshood Abiola trophy.

JSK had an easy 4-1 aggregate triumph over Cameroon's Tonnerre Yaounde in the Final, but the second leg was marred by another of the kind of incidents for which African soccer enjoys growing infamy. Just two minutes into the tie in Yaounde, Tunisian linesman Toaufik Oueslati was felled by a sharp object thrown from the crowd. The game was halted for 22 minutes while he was treated for a cut behind his ear.

The incident was all so pointless, given that the Cup was already heading back to Algeria after JSK's comfortable 4-0 victory in the first leg. Tonnerre were hopelessly outclassed in Algiers, playing a peculiarly amateurish type of kick-and-rush football. The Cameroonians never had a chance in the return, not least because of the atrocious condition of the pitch in Yaounde.

Hamid Berguiga scored twice in the first leg as JSK kept up relentless attack, but the real hero was gifted midfielder Farouk Belkaid, who will surely head for Europe before long.

The victory brought a huge celebration for the club from Tizi Ouzou, a city in the troubled Berger region of Algeria. JSK are the first side to win three CAF Cup titles and the only team, apart from Esperance of Tunisia, to have also tasted success in the Champions Cup and the Cup-winners Cup. Nine of the players in this year's side had also been part of their success in 2000, when they overcame Ismaili of Egypt, and 2001, when they beat Etoile Sahel of Tunisia. And JSK will be back again in the 2003 edition of the Cup – the equivalent of the UEFA Cup in Europe – having finished second in last season's Algerian championship.

● Raja Casablanca ensured that this year's Champions League Final would be an all-North African affair after storming to a 4-0 victory over ASEC Abidjan in the home second leg.

The Moroccans had lost the first leg 2-0 in Ivory Coast but coped by far the best with the slippery conditions in Casablanca. Their win set up a Final encounter with Zamalek of Egypt, who beat TP Mazembe of DR Congo 3-1 on aggregate.

It took until stoppage time at the end of the first half for Raja to open the scoring in the second leg through Hicham Aboucherouane after they had squandered several gilt-edged chances. But there was just no stopping the tidal wave after the interval, and when Francois Endene Elokan added the second just past the hour the writing was on the wall for the Ivorians.

ASEC's situation was not helped by injury to goalkeeper Joe Kante, which meant they had to use their third choice, Brahima Kone, for the last 30 minutes. First-choice keeper Losseni Konate has been out for several months with a broken arm.

Raja wrapped up the tie when Endene Elokan scored again on the stroke of full time and then substitute Omar Zoubit chipped Kone for the fourth goal well into added time.

Zamalek drew 1-1 away to Mazembe, but two goals from veteran Egypt forward Hossam Hassan in the return ensured their passage to the Final. The 36-year-old, who was the world's most capped player at one time, opened the scoring from the penalty spot in the fourth minute and finished off a counter-attack to double his side's lead nine minutes before half-time.

## Big guns prepare for World Cup battle

LIBYA, Morocco and South Africa have joined the fight to host the 2010 World Cup. They have sent letters of intent to FIFA and may be followed by Egypt, who have announced their interest but must meet the December 31 deadline.

Nigeria could also enter the fray but there is now a void in the leadership of the FA and any bid must have the blessing of the government, who enjoy strong control over the country's football officials.

Libya's Saad Gaddafi, son of the country's leader, Muammar, recently resigned as FA president, but family ties mean he is still kingmaker of the country's soccer. His business interests in Italian soccer and the role he played in helping garner African support for Sepp Blatter in this year's FIFA election have boosted his profile.

In a recent newspaper interview he said Libya were in the race but foresaw either they or favourites South Africa withdrawing in favour of the other. Gaddafi suggested his father and South African state president Thabo Mbeki would work on a compromise deal. However, such a suggestion has been laughed off by the South African bid committee.

Despite Gaddafi's posturing, the real race will be between Morocco and South Africa. The North Africans have the proximity to Europe in their favour; South Africa the ready-made infrastructure. But the latter, who narrowly lost out to Germany in the 2006 race, need some organisational talent. Witness their recent friendly against Senegal in Johannesburg – a 1-1 draw – when officials forgot to bring corner flags.

The kick-off was delayed, with the organisers forced to eventually borrow flags from supporters in the crowd. To make matters worse, no action has yet been taken against those responsible, enhancing the belief that a lack of accountability is South Africa's Achilles heel.

*Mark Gleeson*

Embarrassed...Lemerre

### Lights out for Lemerre

ROGER LEMERRE'S reign as coach of Tunisia did not exactly get off to a bright start. In fact, the lights ominously failed on him during his first game in charge – a friendly against Egypt in Tunis. It embarrassed the 2004 African Nations Cup finals hosts, coinciding as it did with the start of an inspection tour by CAF president Issa Hayatou.

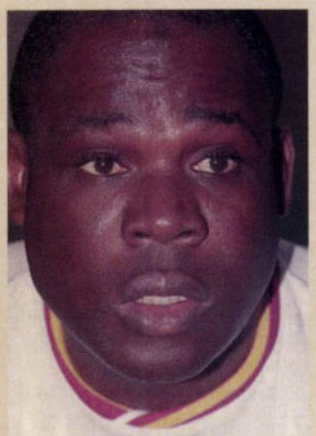
The game, which finished goalless, was twice interrupted by floodlight failure, and though it was eventually played out, visibility was reduced as technicians failed to fully fix the problem.

Lemerre's arrival has been much anticipated in Tunisia despite his dismissal as France coach after their calamitous World Cup finals. His contract runs until the 2004 Nations Cup finals.

*Mark Gleeson*

Round-up

## Algeria launch 2008 bid



Beja challenge...Lama Bamba

**ALGERIA** have entered the race to host the 2008 African Nations Cup finals, just weeks after losing out in the battle for the 2006 edition. They have presented a bid with a proposed use of six venues – Algiers, Annaba, Blida, Constantine, Oran and Tlemcen – for the 16-team tournament.

In the October vote for the 2006 hosting rights, Algeria garnered just one vote from the 11 members of the Confederation of African Football's executive committee, against seven for winners Egypt.

Meanwhile, CAF has banned the use of Algiers' Rouiba stadium indefinitely after a referee was pelted during USM Alger's defeat by Wydad Casablanca of Morocco in the African Cup-winners Cup semi-finals.

Elsewhere in **NORTH AFRICA**, former Ivory Coast coach Lama Bamba has been appointed to take over at **TUNISIAN** club Olympique Beja. The 45-year-old has signed a contract to the end of the season in May.

Club Africain have fired Swiss coach Charles Roessli, replacing him with Mrad Mahjoubi.

Former African champions Al Ahly won their first seven games of the **EGYPTIAN** League season to ease the pressure on coach Jo Bonfrere. His position appeared to be under threat after Al Ahly's failure to qualify from the group stage of this year's African Champions League.

Anwar Salama has quit as coach of Al Masry after they were beaten 2-1 on aggregate by Algeria's JS Kabylie in the CAF Cup semi-finals.

### EAST AFRICA

Young Africans snatched **TANZANIA'S** Premier League title on a dramatic last day when four teams all had a chance to take glory.

Nzoia Sugar will represent **KENYA** in next season's African Champions League after AC Nakuru said they did not have any money to participate. Nakuru qualified by winning the 2002 League title, when using the name of their sponsor Oserian Fastac, but have since lost their corporate backing.

Kenya Pipeline won the Golden Moi Cup for the first time, beating Mathare United 1-0 in the Final in Nairobi.

### SOUTHERN AFRICA

Zanaco completed the Double in **ZAMBIA**, beating Power Dynamos on penalties in the Mosi Cup Final after a 3-3 draw. Zanaco narrowly pipped Dynamos to the League title shortly before their Cup victory.

Brazilian Djalma Cavalcante has been appointed coach of **SOUTH AFRICAN** League leaders Mamelodi Sundowns following the dismissal of former Soviet Union international Viktor Bondarenko. Cavalcante was previously Angola's national coach.

### WEST AFRICA

ASEC Abidjan won the **IVORY COAST** League championship for the third successive season, finishing four points ahead of JC Abidjan. It is a record 18th triumph for the club.

Hearts of Oak made it six **GHANAIAN** League titles in a row, finishing five points ahead of Asante Kotoko.

Nouhadibou FC won the League in **MAURITANIA** by seven clear points.

Frenchman Guy Stephan has agreed to take over as the new coach of **SENEGAL**.

Yeo Martial, who steered Ivory Coast to the 1992 Nations Cup title, has been appointed as **NIGER** national coach.

Second Division JS Pobe upset the odds by winning the **BENIN** Cup Final against Mogas 90. Pobe won 4-3 on penalties after a 1-1 draw in the replay following a goalless first encounter.

*Mark Gleeson*

## Pro-file Nasredine Kraouche

# France-born playmaker aiming for Nations Cup glory with Algeria

NASREDINE KRAOUCHE epitomises the new Euro-African international, a child of the Diaspora who has gained his international profile in the land of his parents.

The France-born playmaker, who has been with Gent in Belgium since 2000, hails from an immigrant Algerian family who came to work in the factories of northern France. He was born in Thionville, some 15km from Metz, and brought up with five brothers and two sisters in the Western way. But although he can barely scrape by in Arabic, he feels more Algerian than French, a factor that led him to turn down a chance to play for the French Under-21 side in 1999 and plump for Algeria instead.

It was also a calculated decision, one that many other players have had to make in recent years – Mustapha Hadji, Djibril Cisse, Ibrahim Ba and, most recently, Monaco's Patrice Evra.

"I see this double identity as a privilege," says Kraouche, who has played for Algeria at two African Nations Cup finals and is part of the side well on their way to a third. "I am African as well as European. Choosing to play for Algeria was emotional but also more a sporting decision. When you play for the Under-21 side, making the senior team remains your goal. But what chance would I have had against French players from Serie A or the English Premier League?

"Football in Africa is dramatic and like folklore. My greatest dream is to win the Nations Cup because I realise what it would mean for the Algerians. They are people held captive by their regime, and sport is an escape route. If our national side was able to win that prize the whole country would have hopes of better times to come."

Algeria made the quarter-finals in Kraouche's first Nations Cup finals, in Ghana in 2000, but were the first side eliminated from the 2002 finals in Mali, despite his superb long-range effort against Liberia in Bamako which kept them briefly in the hunt in the opening round.

Kraouche came through the junior ranks at Metz as a striker, later becoming a playmaker. But Metz's success meant few chances for the Algerian to break into the first team, so he moved to Belgium.

Gent's Norwegian coach, Trond Sollied, recognised his talent, and Kraouche has been a regular for several seasons, while also establishing a reputation as one of the more exciting African international talents in recent years.

*Mark Gleeson*

### Fact file

**Club** Gent (Blg)
**Country** Algeria
**Born** August 27, 1979, in Thionville, France
**Previous clubs** AS Clouange (Fra), Metz (Fra)
**International debut** June 1999, v Tunisia
**International caps** 21 (2 goals)

# Champions Jubilo rewrite record books

Mike Plastow and Yumiko Nagae on the Iwata club's historic J.League achievement

## JAPAN

JUBILO IWATA wrote a new page of J.League history on November 23 by becoming the first team to win both stages in a single season. As a result the championship play-offs, which pit the First Stage winners against the Second, were cancelled, bringing the League season to a close two weeks earlier than normal.

"Our aim this year was to break through the final barrier, to win outright, and I'm very proud of how my players stuck together to do this," said Jubilo president Takanori Matsuzaki. "Every game has been hard. There's only a hair's breadth between all 16 Division One teams, and the players showed tremendous mental strength to win through."

Jubilo needed only a draw at home to Tokyo Verdy 1969 in their penultimate game to secure the title, and though the visitors put up fierce resistance, a last-minute extra-time golden goal from Japan midfielder Takashi Fukunishi put the issue beyond doubt.

Jubilo know from bitter experience that domination is not enough to secure J.League success. Last year, they gained 17 points more than the eventual champions, Kashima Antlers, only to fail in the play-offs. Indeed, the overall title had not gone to the team with the most points in the five seasons from 1997 to 2001.

"Now that we have broken through that barrier, our new slogan for next year is 'To Asia, To the World'," says Matsuzaki. The Japanese champions start out on that road when they meet their South Korean and Chinese counterparts in February's inaugural Far East Club Championship, to be staged in Japan.

High achievers...Jubilo's Nakayama and Hattori display their J.League silverware

Last year's champions Kashima Antlers had to make do with retaining the J.League Yamazaki Nabisco Cup, the Japanese League Cup, which qualified them to join Jubilo in the Far Eastern tournament. Mitsuo Ogasawara scored the only goal as Antlers defeated Urawa Reds in Tokyo.

J2 champions Oita Trinita and Cerezo Osaka edged out Albirex Niigata to secure promotion next season. Trinita have been preparing for this moment for a long time, having finished third two years in a row, while Cerezo bounce back after just one season out of the top flight.

## OCEANIA

### Knights vanquished at last

THE **AUSTRALIAN** National Soccer League's last remaining unbeaten record ended when Melbourne Knights lost 4-2 to South Melbourne in the Victoria derby.

Despite having sustained just this single loss, the Knights were lying fifth after nine games, having drawn five, and trailed leaders Sydney Olympic by nine points.

Knights, one of the least-fancied sides at the start of the campaign, have been boosted by the presence of Leon Buhic and Gustavo Biscayzacu in their line-up. Close-season signing Buhic, back after missing several games through injury, was a prolific striker in the Croatian Second Division. Biscayzacu, a Uruguayan, finished second top scorer in Chile while playing for Santiago Morning.

The **SOLOMON ISLANDS'** favourite sporting son, Batram Suri, marked his return following a stint in Fiji with a hat-trick for Koloale in the 7-0 drubbing of Las United in the Honiara Premier League. Koloale remained in mid-table, though, seven points behind leaders Naha.

Pansa maintained their dominance of the **AMERICAN SAMOAN** League, taking the title after losing just one game all season. Utulei were runners-up eight points behind, thanks largely to the efforts of their coach and leading scorer, 42-year-old Mau Kaleopa.

The **FIJIAN** national side won two, drew two and lost three of their games during a tour of Australia.

*Paul Moon*

## Asian round-up

**SAUDI ARABIAN** League leaders Al Ittihad have released Brazilian World Cup winner Bebeto and Nigerian Olympic gold medallist Tijani Babangida after both failed to impress since arriving at the club.

Francisco Maturana, who coached Al Hilal to the League championship last season, has left the club to take charge of the Colombian national team.

Brazilian striker Paulo Sergio has left Al Wahda of the **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES** following a disagreement with the club's management. The 33-year-old former Bayern Munich forward had completed less than six months of a two-year contract worth an estimated £700,000.

Former **SINGAPORE** champions Geylang United have replaced Korean coach Jang Jung with Australian Scott O'Donnell.

Mohammedan SC completed the treble in **BANGLADESH** by beating Muktijoddah KC 1-0 in the Federation Cup Final. Uzbek forward Dabran Turabikov scored the winner from the penalty spot. Mohammedan won the National League earlier this season and later regained the Premier Division title.

The Asian Football Confederation is closely monitoring developments in **VIETNAM** after allegations of match-fixing. Police arrested 20 players in November as part of their investigation.

East Bengal beat Mohammedan Sporting Club 3-0 in **INDIA'S** championship play-off Final to take their 28th League title. The game was marred by crowd violence, with objects being thrown at players and several policemen injured in skirmishes.

Manipur won the country's Santosh Trophy for the first time after beating holders Kerala 2-1 in the Final thanks to Tomba Singh's golden goal four minutes into extra-time.

*Michael Church, Azam Mahmood & G C Das*

**CHINA**

## Coelho linked with national job

FORMER Portugal coach Humberto Coelho is the latest high-profile name to be linked with the national team post. "It's an extremely attractive work prospect," said Coelho, who led Portugal to the Euro 2000 semi-finals, after meeting FA vice-president Yan Shiduo in Paris.

"There's nothing to stop me going to China now. I am a trainer, I love football and, if all goes well, I see no reason to pull out of this project."

Former Japan coach Philippe Troussier remains in contention for the job, while Willem Van Hanegem, currently assistant to Holland boss Dick Advocaat, is also in the frame.

Dalian Shide continued their domestic dominance by lifting their third consecutive League title and seventh in nine seasons. A 2-1 win over Beijing Guoan, courtesy of goals from Nicolas Ouedec and Zoran Jankovic, secured their latest triumph.

"We have won three titles in three consecutive years, accumulated over 150 League points and scored more than 200 goals," said Yugoslav coach Milorad Kosanovic, who now has a hat-trick of titles. "We ended this season in the best possible way."

Asian Player of the Year Fan Zhiyi has signed for English Second Division leaders Cardiff City in a two-year deal.

*Michael Church*

Job prospect...Humberto Coelho

**SOUTH KOREA**

## Hong and Hwang stand down

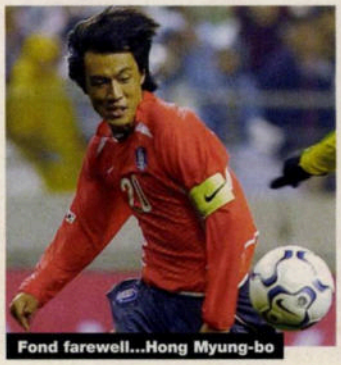
WORLD CUP stars Hong Myung-bo and Hwang Sun-hong brought down the curtain on their international careers following South Korea's 3-2 defeat by Brazil in a friendly in Seoul in November.

Defender Hong, now bound for Major League Soccer side Los Angeles Galaxy, and forward Hwang racked up close to 250 caps between them. They made their first World Cup appearances in Italy in 1990 and have long been pillars of the game in Korea. Their positions will be very difficult to fill for whoever takes over as national team boss, though it was fitting that Hwang's widely recognised successor, Seol Ki-hyeon, should have opened the scoring against Brazil, in the eighth minute.

The lead lasted only a short while, Ronaldo pulling the visitors level in the 16th minute, only for Ahn Jung-hwan to restore Korea's lead just before the hour. Ronaldo played a part in both Brazil's other goals, equalising himself again and then earning the penalty which Ronaldinho converted to seal victory.

Busan I.cons coach Kim Ho-kon took charge of the team for the Brazil game, though the FA recently said it is keen to hire another foreign manager following the sacking of Park Hang-seo after the Under-23s could win only bronze at the Asian Games. Meanwhile, former Chelsea manager Ian Porterfield has signed a two-year contract with I.cons. He was most recently in charge of Ghanaian side Asante Kotoko.

*Michael Church*



Fond farewell...Hong Myung-bo

# Pro-file Seol Ki-hyeon

## Korean World Cup forward coming good at Anderlecht

IT MIGHT have taken Seol Ki-hyeon a season or two to settle into life in Belgium. But with the goals flying in for the talented forward in recent months, it would appear his early woes are behind him.

Last autumn, Seol was being berated by Anderlecht fans as a failure. Injuries and a loss of form had hampered his development following his move from Royal Antwerp in the summer and both threatened his place in Guus Hiddink's World Cup squad.

Seol had taken a gamble by joining Antwerp from Kwangwoon University aged 21, eschewing the regular route into football by turning down the chance to play in the K-League. But the forward's 10 goals in 25 games in his first season in Belgium convinced champions Anderlecht to take him on.

Seol kicked off in style at his new club, scoring a hat-trick in his first game, the Belgian Super Cup. This raised expectation levels to a height the young Korean could never maintain and soon his form took a nose dive. However, his hard work and determination to make it to the World Cup paid off and soon both Seol and Korea were reaping the benefits. Now the solidly built centre-forward is carrying his impressive World Cup form into the Belgian League, netting eight times in 12 matches by the end of November.

"I think there's a big difference from when he was here last year," says Anderlecht coach Hugo Broos. "I think the World Cup was a very good thing for his confidence, and now we have a very good player. He scores goals, he's very quick and he's strong."

Now, having confirmed his ability at Anderlecht, Seol has his sights set on joining a bigger league. "I want to go to England," he says. "I looked for a club there before coming to Antwerp but it didn't happen. I want to learn more first. Then I want to move on. I don't mind who I play for but it is important I go to one of the major countries."

Like so many of the Koreans, Seol owes much to his nation's success at the World Cup, and the forward praises the part played by Hiddink. "Mr Hiddink has a lot of self-confidence and that is what he gave to the players," says Seol. "He worked hard on the physical side of the game and he understood the positive and negative aspects of Asian players.

"This was my first World Cup and I'm hoping we can do even better next time around. But now, because of our success, there will be more Asian players coming to Europe and it is up to those of us already here to continue to do well so there is less pressure on the others.

"It's great to see more Asians coming to Europe. It makes me happy to see it. It is something very special."

*Michael Church*

**Fact file**

**Club** Anderlecht (Blg)
**Country** South Korea
**Born** January 18, 1979
**Previous clubs** Kwangwoon University, Royal Antwerp (Blg)
**International caps** 38 (11 goals)

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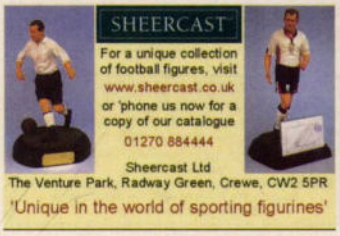


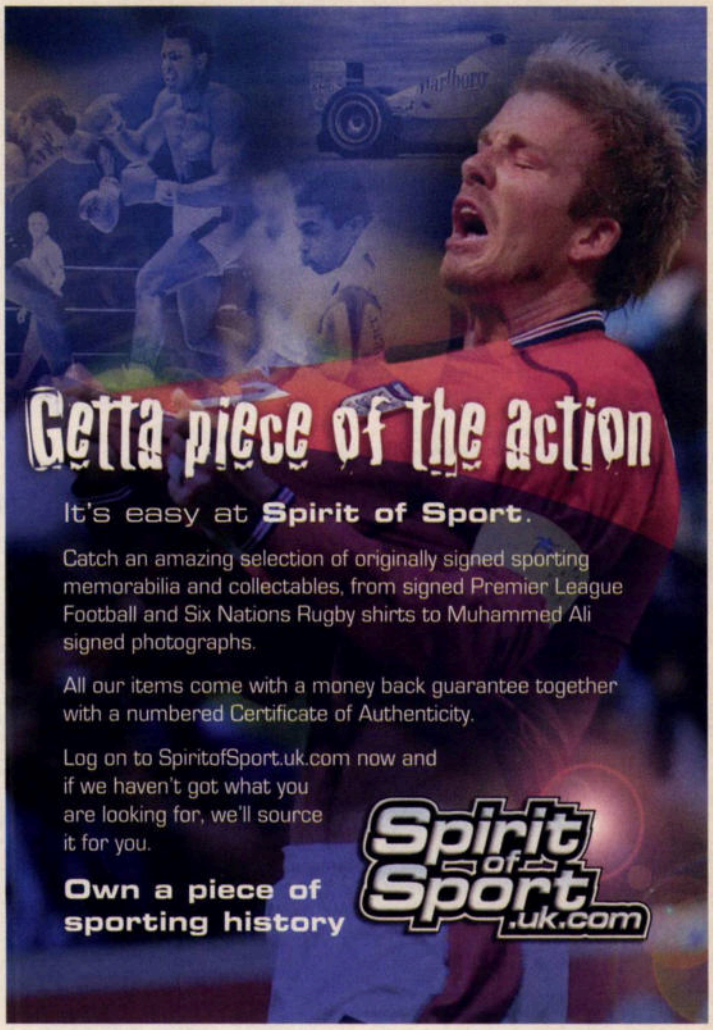


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| PRANK FRAUD | £250 HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY DEBITED FROM YOUR ACCOUNT. THE TICKETS WILL BE SENT OUT... |
| PRANK URDEAD | DAD'S FOUND OUT WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO... MUM SAYS HE'S LOOKING FOR HIS GUN! |
| PRANK CHEAT | PARTNER SEES YOU WITH SOMEONE ELSE & ASKS WHAT'S GOING ON... |
| PRANK CLINIC | FROM STD CLINIC, YOU ARE LISTED AS HAVING HAD RELATIONS... |
| PRANK BITCH | YOU DON'T KNOW ME BUT I KNOW YOUR BLOKE. WE MET... |
| PRANK MODEL | SHOCK THEM WHEN THE MODEL AGENCY GETS INTOUCH ABOUT... |
| PRANK CUBICLE | HI, GOT UR NO. OFF THE WALL IN THE BRICKLAYERS ARMS. IF YOU... |
| PRANK STRIP | REMIND YOUR M8 WHAT THEY GOT UP TO THE OTHER NIGHT... |
| PRANK HOOKER | U SAW YOUR MATES MUM ON THE STREET CORNER... |

NEW!

PRANK BITCH 07093557

PHONE NO: 8007 or 87007

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- **Leave a space between each word.**
- **Start your txt with TONE or LOGO.**

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TONE MANUTD

PHONE NO: 8007 or 87007

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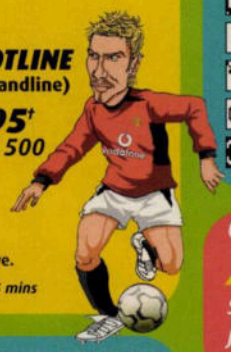

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NEW FEATURE

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PHONE NO: 8007 or 87007

JAMES ♥ VILLA

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**TO SEND TO A MATE'S NOKIA** just add their mobile number next.

2. Send txt message to **8007** (Vodafone/Orange/$0_2$) or to **87007** (T-Mobile)

3. Within a few seconds you/your mate will receive the personalised logo. Press **Options** & select **Save.**

LOVE LOGO: TEXT FOOTY MAD!

PHONE NO: 8007 or 87007

FOOTY MAD!

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| LOGO MRCROW | 2478 |
| LOGO SCORED | 2613 |
| LOGO NOFEAR | 2027 |
| LOGO FOOTIE | 2486 |
| LOGO ALIENS | 2384 |
| LOGO ENGLAND2 | 2620 |
| LOGO MONKEY | 2431 |
| LOGO ZANY | 2483 |
| LOGO IAMHORNY | 2454 |
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| | |
|---|---|
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| BIRMINGHAM | TOTTENHAM |
| BLACKBURN | SUNDERLAND |
| BOLTON | WESTBROM |
| CHARLTON | COVENTRY |
| CHELSEA | DERBY |
| EVERTON | IPSWICH |
| FULHAM | LEICESTER |
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## Brian Glanville's LAST WORD

Worlds apart...McCarthy (left) and Keane could never resolve their dispute, but there were faults on both sides

# McCarthy: the good, the bad and the ugly

THE Roy Keane-Mick McCarthy affair was horrid, indeed, from many aspects. Not least the repugnant picture of Irish journalists standing up in the press box at Lansdowne Road cheering the national team's Euro 2004 qualifying defeat by Switzerland since it meant that McCarthy was probably on his way out.

Heaven knows, I was infamous in my 33 years as the *Sunday Times'* football correspondent for criticising and clashing with England managers, but never would I have delighted in an England defeat.

McCarthy did very well to take the Irish to the World Cup finals in Korea/Japan, surviving the utterly unfair burden of having to play-off home and away against Iran – a FIFA sop to the rebellious Asian confederation – then to get the team as far as the second round, when they lost only on penalties to Spain.

But he never quite convinced me in his role, not least when he got things seriously wrong in the eliminators for Euro 2000. McCarthy inexplicably fielded a weakened team in Croatia when still needing points to qualify automatically, when he could have done so four days later against the less demanding opposition of Malta.

The manager lamented the fact that the Croats scored a winner late in extended injury time – a result that ultimately meant the Irish had to try to qualify, unsuccessfully, through the play-offs. But whose fault was that, when he had adopted so defensive and negative a posture?

Regarding McCarthy's bitter row with Keane, I still feel there were abundant faults on both sides and that the whole sad incident could have been avoided. Keane is a violent man who has been guilty of some shocking fouls, most notably the assault on Alf-Inge Haaland, most recently the wallop on Jason McAteer – who, having been alleged to oppose Keane's recall, now reportedly wants him.

'Keane was right to condemn the haphazard training arrangements on Saipan in the run-up to the World Cup'

Keane, however, was right to condemn the haphazard training arrangements on the island of Saipan in the run-up to the World Cup. McCarthy, for his part, must have known what the response would be if he arraigned Keane in front of several of his team-mates.

I still feel that, consciously or unconsciously, McCarthy may not have been displeased by what happened. However outrageous Keane's tirade, it was quite predictable, as was his inevitable departure from the squad and all that it cost Ireland's World Cup challenge.

With all deference to Johnny Giles, whom I like and esteem, his suggestion that Keane be the next Ireland manager is just daft. Best Irish player he may well be, but so explosive a temperament is surely incompatible with any form of authority.

Giles recalls that he took the national team job rather than leave it to others. But he was bright. Keane is not.

# Peterborough must win Posh war

Spice of life...Victoria Beckham

RELATIVELY Posh Spice, as I always call her (oh, that accent!), has clashed with Peterborough United on the matter of who has the right to register the nickname 'Posh', used by the club since the 1920s. My sympathies are all with Peterborough.

**'The wretched Spice Girls could never hold a candle to the likes of the glorious Andrews Sisters'**

By sharp contrast with her husband footballer of well-deserved renown with a phenomenal right foot (I wish those critics who make cheap fun of his alleged intellectual shortcomings could do as much on a soccer field), Victoria Beckham has no obvious abilities. As singers, the wretched Spice Girls could never hold a candle to the likes of the glorious Andrews Sisters of Hollywood renown.

The fact this cynically yet successfully promoted group had such success – deferred to by Prince Charles and Clive James – gave new currency to the maxim of H L Mencken, the American pundit: "No one ever went broke underestimating public taste." Or as J B Priestley put it in the 1950s: "We live in an age of rubbish."

Posh is as posh does.

What's in a nickname?...Peterborough stake their claim to the Posh soubriquet

# Denis Compton: deserving of a cap

IN his newspaper column, writing about our mutual hero, Denis Compton, Ian Wooldridge speaks of Compton in the golden year of 1947, when he scored more than 3,000 runs for Middlesex, finding time to play soccer for Arsenal and England. How I always wished it were true. The fact is, ironically, that by contrast with his in every sense big brother Leslie, Denis, a hugely superior footballer, never got a full cap for England.

A coruscating outside-left with a fierce left foot and superb ball control – he'd bounce it a few times on his head before hooking it into the middle – he in fact played only 11 wartime internationals for England.

Then, returning from army service in India in 1946, having put on a lot of weight, much of which he never lost, he was picked to play for England against Scotland at Hampden Park in a Victory International for which, as with wartime games, no official cap was given. He was never chosen for England again; the time of Matthews and Finney was at hand and in any case he was so often playing cricket abroad.

Doubling up...Denis Compton had to juggle cricket and football

Leslie was a full-back who joined Arsenal in 1932 and was still a reserve player when war broke out in 1939, though he had played in two England trial matches. Joining the army, like Denis, he for a time became a centre-forward, in which position he actually did play once for England. Later in the war he was several times picked for England at right-back.

The war over, Leslie, the Middlesex wicket-keeper, became a powerful and commanding centre-half. In 1950, at the ripe old age of 38 and against the wishes of England manager Walter Winterbottom, who didn't pick the team, he was fully capped at Sunderland against Wales and at his own Highbury against Yugoslavia.

So it was that the dazzling Denis never won a full England cap, the far less gifted Leslie got two of them!

I also read a recent article by Michael Parkinson evoking the days when, far from struggling in the mud as England did in Bratislava recently, Wolves revelled in it, to defeat European opposition.

The facts are somewhat different. In the European Cup of 1959-60 Wolves were humiliated in thick mud at Molineux by a polyglot Barcelona side which thrashed them 5-2.

# January 1979

TERRY VENABLES, the young manager of Second Division Crystal Palace, had yet to win any major silverware, but was being talked about in glowing terms 24 years ago. "Venables has come a long way," ran the headline. But already Venables' non-footballing interests, notably his authorship of the *Hazel* detective series, were coming under scrutiny.

"My general philosophy is that 'God loves a trier'," said Venables. "I feel that in life, if you can do something, you should have a go at it, and see how far you can progress. I have attempted such diverse things as singing and writing, but football has always been my first love."

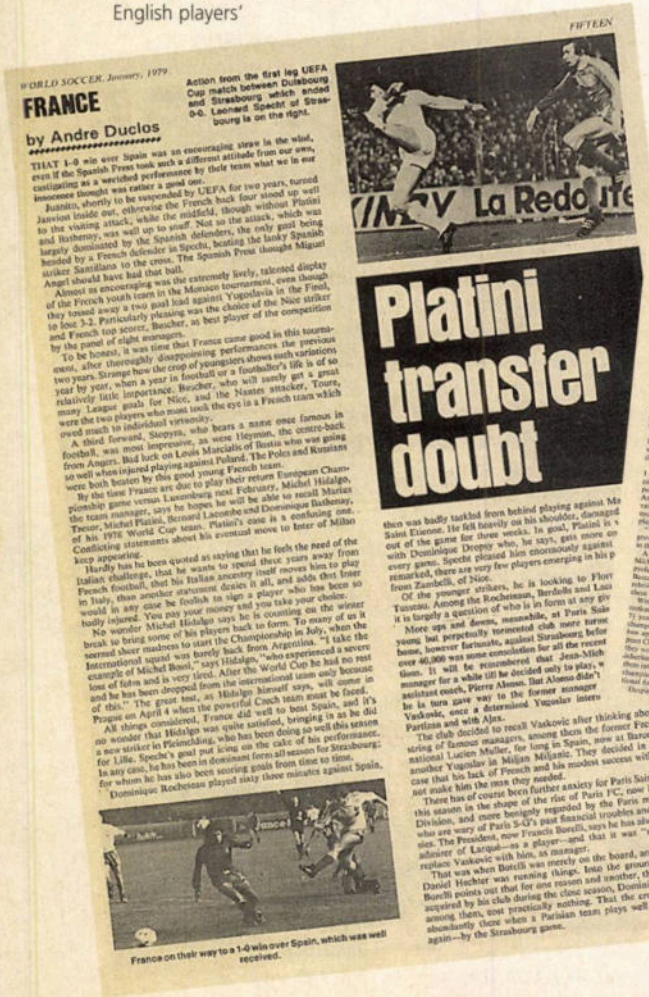
The youthful exuberance of Venables' Palace led to them being dubbed the 'Team of the Eighties', but he was to leave for QPR little more than a year later en route to Barcelona and Spurs.

Elsewhere in England, the transfer of Poland midfielder Kazimierz Deyna from Legia Warsaw to Manchester City was hailed as a ground-breaking move. City had faced numerous obstacles in making the signing, including opposition from the English players' union. But manager Tony Book was delighted to get his man, saying: "He's alert and lively – fit as a butcher's dog."

However, the 31-year-old never quite lived up to his billing at City. His contract was cancelled in January 1981 and he moved to the United States, where he was to die in a car crash.

In France Michel Platini was busy denying rumours of an impending move to Internazionale while also being quoted on his need for an Italian challenge. He signed for Juventus in 1982.

Rinus Michels took the helm at Los Angeles Aztecs in the North American Soccer League. But the former Ajax and Barcelona coach's move was overshadowed, in *World Soccer* at least, by the appointment of Henry Kissinger as the League's new president. Kissinger was pictured with NASL commissioner Phil Woosnam.



WORLD SOCCER, January 1979

## FRANCE

by Andre Duclos

Action from the first leg UEFA Cup match between Dulsbourg and Strasbourg which ended 0-0. Leonard Specht of Strasbourg is on the right.

THAT 1-0 win over Spain was an encouraging straw in the wind, even if the Spanish Press took such a different attitude from our own, castigating as a wretched performance by their team what we in our innocence thought was rather a good one.

Juanito, shortly to be suspended by UEFA for two years, turned Janvion inside out, otherwise the French back four stood up well to the visiting attack, while the midfield, though without Platini and Rothenay, was well up to snuff. Not so the attack, which was largely dominated by the Spanish defenders, the only goal being headed by a French defender in Specht, beating the lanky Spanish striker Santillana to the cross. The Spanish Press thought Miguel Angel should have had that ball.

Almost as encouraging was the extremely lively, talented display of the French youth team in the Monaco tournament, even though they tossed away a two goal lead against Yugoslavia in the Final, to lose 3-2. Particularly pleasing was the choice of the Nice striker and French top scorer, Bescher, as best player of the competition by the panel of eight managers.

To be honest, it was time that France came good in this tournament, after thoroughly disappointing performances the previous two years. Strange how the crop of youngsters shows such variations year by year, when a year in football or a footballer's life is of so relatively little importance. Bescher, who will surely get a great many League goals for Nice, and the Nantes attacker, Toure, were the two players who most took the eye in a French team which owed much to individual virtuosity.

A third forward, Stopyra, who bears a name once famous in football, was most impressive, as were Heymes, the centre-back from Angers. Bad luck on Louis Marciaik of Bastia who was going so well when injured playing against Poland. The Poles and Russians were both beaten by this good young French team.

By the time France are due to play their return European Championship game versus Luxembourg next February, Michel Hidalgo, the team manager, says he hopes he will be able to recall Morlas Tusor, Michel Platini, Bernard Lacombe and Dominique Bathenay. Conflicting statements about his eventual move to Inter of Milan keep appearing.

Hardly has he been quoted as saying that he feels the need of the Italian challenge, that he wants to spend three years away from French football, that his Italian ancestry itself moves him to play in Italy, than another statement denies it all, and adds that Inter would in any case be foolish to sign a player who has been so badly injured. You pay your money and you take your choice.

No wonder Michel Hidalgo says he is counting on the winter break to bring some of his players back to form. To many of us it seemed sheer madness to start the Championship in July, when the International squad was barely back from Argentina. "I take the example of Michel Bossi," says Hidalgo, "who experienced a severe loss of form and is very tired. After the World Cup he had no rest and he has been dropped from the international team only because of this." The great test at Hidalgo himself says, will come in Prague on April 4 when the powerful Czech team must be faced.

All things considered, France did well to beat Spain, and it's no wonder that Hidalgo was quite satisfied, bringing in as he did a new striker in Piemeding, who has been doing so well this season for Lille. Specht's goal put icing on the cake of his performance. In any case, he has been in dominant form all season for Strasbourg; for whom he has also been scoring goals from time to time.

Dominique Rocheteau played sixty three minutes against Spain.

France on their way to a 1-0 win over Spain, which was well received.

FIFTEEN

# Platini transfer doubt

then was badly tackled from behind playing against Ma Saint Etienne. He fell heavily on his shoulder, damaged out of the game for three weeks. In goal, Platini is v with Dominique Dropsy who, he says, gets more on every game. Specht pleased him enormously against remarked, there are very few players emerging in his p from Zambelli, of Nice.

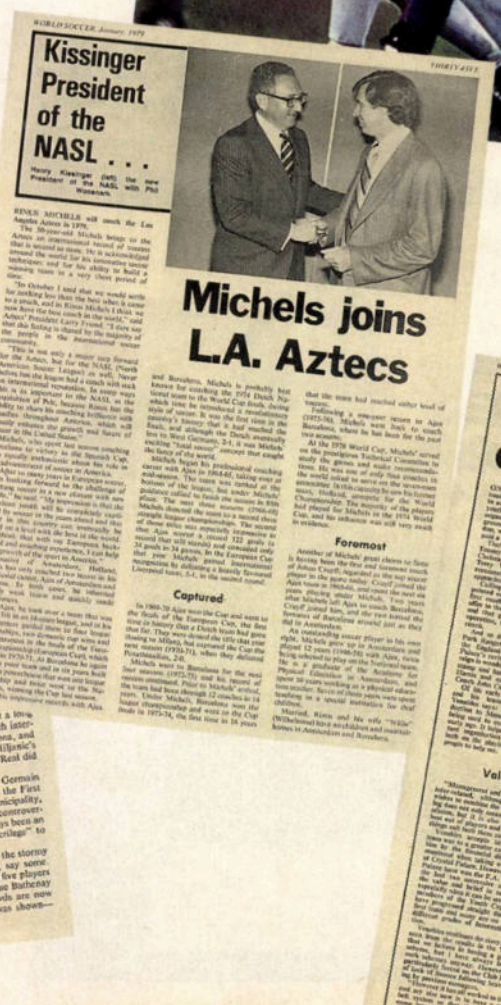
Of the younger strikers, he is looking to Flor Tusseau. Among the Rocheteaux, Berdella and Lau it is largely a question of who is in form at any giv

More ups and downs, meanwhile, at Paris Sain team, however fortunate, against Strasbourg, befor home, however fortunate, against Strasbourg, befor over 40,000 was some consolation for all the recent tions. It will be remembered that Jean-Mich manager for a while (!) he decided only to play, w assistant coach, Pierre Alonso. But Alonso didn't he in turn gave way to the former manager Vaskovic, once a determined Yugoslav intere Partizan and with Ajax.

The club decided to recall Vaskovic after thinking about a long string of famous managers, among them the former French international Lucien Muller, for long in Spain, now at Barcelona, and another Yugoslav in Miljan Miljanic. They decided in Miljanic's case that his lack of French and his modest success with Real did not make him the man they needed.

There has of course been further anxiety for Paris Saint Germain this season in the shape of the rise of Paris FC, now in the First Division, and more benignly regarded by the Paris municipality, who are wary of Paris S-G's past financial troubles and controversies. The President, now Francis Borelli, says he has always been admirer of Larque—as a player—and that it was "sacrilege" to replace Vaskovic with him, as manager.

That was when Borelli was running things. Into the ground, say some Daniel Hechter was running things. Into the ground, say some Borelli points out that for one reason and another, the five players acquired by his club during the close season, Dominique Bathenay among them, cost practically nothing. That the crowds are now abundantly there when a Parisian team plays well was shown—again—by the Strasbourg game.



WORLD SOCCER, January 1979

## Kissinger President of the NASL . . .

Henry Kissinger (left) the new President of the NASL with Phil Woosnam.

THIRTY-FIVE

# Michels joins L.A. Aztecs

RINUS MICHELS will coach the Los Angeles Aztecs in 1979.

The 50-year-old Michels brings to the Aztecs an international record of success that is second to none. He is acknowledged around the world for his innovative soccer techniques, and for his ability to build a winning team in a very short period of time.

"In October I said that we would settle for nothing less than the best when it came to a coach, and in Rinus Michels I think we have got the best coach in the world," said our club President Larry Fried. "I dare say the purity in the international soccer community.

"This is not only a major step forward for the Aztecs, but for the NASL (North American Soccer League) as well. Never before has the league had a coach with such an international reputation. In some ways this is as important to Pele's recent acquisition of Pele, because Rinus has the ability to share his coaching brilliance with coaches throughout America, which will greatly enhance the growth and future of soccer in the United States."

Michels, who spent last season coaching Barcelona, is no stranger to the Spanish Cup, the anniversary of soccer in America.

"I am looking forward to the challenge of producing soccer in a new climate with new players," he said. "My impression is that the American market will be completely underrated by soccer in the years ahead and this soccer in the country can eventually be played on a level with the best in the world.

"I think that with my European background and coaching experience, I can help in the growth of the sport in America."

A native of Amsterdam, Holland, Michels has only coached two teams in his professional career, Ajax of Amsterdam and Barcelona, for both teams he inherited relatively weak teams and quickly made them winners.

With Ajax, he took over a team that was ranked 19th in the Dutch league, and in his 7 year tenure guided them to four Dutch championships, two domestic cup wins and four appearances in the finals of the European Champions Cup (European Cup), which they won in 1970-71. At Barcelona he again inherited a poor team and in six years brought them into a position that was any league championship and twice reached the European finals, winning the Cup last season.

Despite his unique records with Ajax and Barcelona, Michels is probably best known for coaching the 1974 Dutch National team to the World Cup finals, during which time he introduced a revolutionary style of soccer. It was the first time in the finals, and although the Dutch eventually lost to West Germany, 2-1, it was Michels' exciting "total soccer" concept that caught the fancy of the world.

Michels began his professional coaching career with Ajax in 1964-65, taking over at bottom of the league, but under Michels' guidance, the team was ranked at the goalscorer called to finish the season in fifth place. The next three seasons (1966-69) Michels directed the team to a second then straight league championships. The second time Ajax scored a record 122 goals (a record that still stands) and conceded only 24 goals in 34 games. In the European Cup campaign, by defeating a heavily favoured Liverpool team, 5-1, in the second round.

### Captured

In 1969-70 Ajax won the Cup and went to the finals of the European Cup, the first time in history that a Dutch team had gone closing to Milan, but captured the Cup the next season (1970-71), when they defeated Panathinaikos, 2-0.

Michels went to Barcelona for the next four seasons (1971-75) and his record of success continued. Prior to Michels' arrival, the team had been through 12 coaches in 14 years. Under Michels, Barcelona won the league championship and went to the Cup finals in 1973-74, the first time in 18 years that the team had reached either level of competition.

Following a one-year return to Ajax (1975-76), Michels went back to coach Barcelona, where he has been for the past two seasons.

At the 1978 World Cup, Michels' served on the prestigious Technical Committee for them. He was one of only four coaches in the world asked to serve on the seven-man committee. In this capacity he was his former protégé, Cruyff, accepted for the World Championship. The majority of the World had played for Michels in the 1974 World Cup, and his influence was still very much in evidence.

### Foremost

Another of Michels' great claims to fame is Swiss born the first and foremost coach of Johan Cruyff, universally the most skilled player in the game today. Cruyff joined Ajax team in Holland, and spent the next six years playing under Michels. Two years Cruyff joined Ajax to coach Barcelona, memories of Barcelona around just as they were in Amsterdam.

An outstanding soccer player in his own right, Michels grew up in Amsterdam and played 12 years (1948-59) with Ajax, retiring to coach and play with the National team. Physical education teacher in Amsterdam, he spent 10 years working as a physical education teacher. Seven of these years were spent teaching in a special institution for deaf children.

Married, Rinus and his wife "Willie" (Wilhelmina) live in a bungalow and apartment in Amsterdam and Barcelona.

WORLD SOCCER, January 1979

# Venables has come a long way

by Ken Goldman

### Value

Crystal Palace's manager Terry Venables.